

Frank Bowmaker

Call: 2021

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Specialist in:

- Housing & Community Care
- Personal Immigration
- Business Immigration
- Civil Law
- Modern Slavery & Trafficking Team

Experience

Frank accepts instructions in immigration, housing, and inquests. He has broad experience of judicial review including in asylum support, community care, and education matters.

Immigration

Frank has accepted instructions in immigration matters including asylum, deportation, EU law, and human rights appeals, with a particular focus on protection claims and judicial review.

Housing

Frank has been instructed in a wide range of possession cases, often involving counterclaims for disrepair and/or discrimination. He recently secured a settlement worth £18,000 for a disabled shared ownership tenant based on a discrimination defence and counterclaim, as well as a public law defence of misapplication of policy.

Frank has been instructed in several homelessness appeals and urgent judicial review claims including applications for interim relief. In a recent judicial review claim, he secured s. 188(1) accommodation for a homeless refugee who had previously been found not to have a priority need, arguing that there had been historic failures to comply with the duty of reasonable inquiry and that the local authority had erred in relying on *R (Yabari) v The Lord Mayor and Citizens of the City of Westminster* [2023] EWHC 185 (Admin).

Inquests

Frank recently acted for a family in an Article 2 inquest where critical findings were made against the Metropolitan Police and Transport for London. For more information and to read the HM Coroner's findings and BBC news coverage, [click here](#).

Prior to the Bar

Before law, Frank worked for a range of non-governmental organisations including Amnesty International, Shelter and Scope. He managed partnerships with the public and private sectors, securing funding and other support for campaigns and frontline services.

Frank subsequently spent two years as a Senior Caseworker at a legal aid firm. He worked on a range of judicial review claims covering asylum support, unlawful detention, homelessness, community care and education. He also developed a strong understanding of the legal aid application process and challenges to LAA decisions.

Many of Frank's clients had care and support needs and/or were victims of ill-treatment, modern slavery and trafficking. His cases included *R (NS) v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2023] EWHC 2675 (Admin), a successful challenge to the Home Office's decision to accommodate a young person with complex mental health needs away from his support networks. Frank also acted for an asylum seeker whose partner died in asylum support accommodation; over a two-year period, he secured adequate asylum support under the IAA 1999, suitable accommodation pursuant to the interim and main housing duties under the HA 1996, and an inquest into her partner's death.

Frank is committed to improving access to justice. He was part of a pro bono team representing an Australian national arbitrarily detained in Iraq and drafted submissions which were adopted by the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) in Opinion No. 70/2021. He has volunteered as a Tribunal Advocate for IPSEA, advising and representing children with special educational needs and disabilities in the FtT (SEND), and as a Legal Caseworker for Bail for Immigration Detainees.

Frank has a keen interest in international law. He competed in the Philip C. Jessup Moot and received awards at both national and international levels. He subsequently volunteered at REDRESS, where he was a contributing author to a publication on the prohibition of torture in common law Africa and prepared submissions to the United Nations Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review (UPR), among other things.



Education

Bar Practice Course, University of Law (Very Competent)

Graduate Diploma in Law, University of Law (Distinction)

History, University of Bristol (First Class)

Awards

Pupillage Scholar; Gray's Inn, Kalisher Trust.

Birkenhead Award; Gray's Inn.

Anthony Bessemer Clark Scholarship; Gray's Inn.

Winner, UK and Ireland Preliminary Rounds; Jessup Moot.

Semi-finalist, UK and Ireland Finals; Jessup Moot.

Top 100 Global Oralists Award; Jessup Moot.

Top 25 UK and Ireland Oralists Award; Jessup Moot.

Semi-finalist; HRLA Judicial Review Moot.

Semi-finalist; LSE Featherstone Moot.

Runner-up; Inter-Inn Moot.

Semi-finalist; Gray's Inn Moot.

Cases

Frank succeeded in an Article 8 private life appeal for a Bangladeshi national ("C")

Frank succeeded in an Article 8 private life appeal for a Bangladeshi national ("C").

C's previous solicitors ceased to act mid-appeal, so Frank was instructed on an urgent basis to help ready the case for the final hearing. He advised on medical and country expert reports,



witnesses and background evidence, secured a vulnerable witness direction based on evidence of cognitive decline, and redrafted the ASA. The case was complicated further by a 2019 decision dismissing C's appeal on human rights and asylum grounds and finding that he was not a credible witness.

The FTT allowed the appeal. It accepted Frank's submission that the expert evidence was reliable despite being based on an account discredited by the Tribunal in 2019, and it departed from those findings per Devaseelan. It held that there would be very significant obstacles to C's integration if returned to Bangladesh, and that his interests outweighed those of the state notwithstanding that C had "defied" immigration controls for many years, spoke limited English, was not financially independent, and was a "burden" on the government. The SSHD did not appeal.

Frank was instructed by Mike Booker and Hannah McDonald of Bristol Law Centre.

Frank Bowmaker succeeded in an urgent application to set aside a warrant of possession after execution

Frank Bowmaker succeeded in an urgent application to set aside a warrant of possession after execution. The Court found that Santander had enforced a possession order in an abusive and oppressive manner and immediately reinstated his client to their home.

The tenant held an AST with the leaseholder of the premises who in turn held a buy-to-let mortgage with Santander. Santander brought possession proceedings against the leaseholder. It used first-class post to serve notice of the proceedings and enforcement to the premises, which, it said, was in strict compliance with Reg 5(1)(a) of the Dwelling Houses (Execution of Possession Orders by Mortgagees) Regulations 2010 ("the 2010 Regulations").

Santander was, however, aware that the freeholder had been changing the flat numbers in the block. As a result, the tenant's case was that she had not received any post from the bank and was evicted by bailiffs without notice just before Christmas.

Frank successfully argued that his client's statutory right to apply for a stay of execution under s. 1 of the Mortgage Repossessions (Protection of Tenants) Act ("MR(PT)A") 2010 had been frustrated. The purpose of the legislation was to give innocent tenants more time to find alternative accommodation, and Santander's obligation to "give notice at the property" under s. 2 MR(PT)A had to be construed in this light. First-class post was not "giving notice at the



property” because the bank knew that the flat numbers had changed. Instead, it should have considered and attempted the alternative methods of service at Reg 5(1)(b)-(c) of the 2010 Regulations. This failure was not only an abuse of process but manifestly unfair and oppressive.

Frank was instructed by Zoheb Chaudhry of Alexander Shaw Solicitors.

Inquest into the death of RE

Frank Bowmaker represented the family of RE, a loving son and father, at an inquest on 10 and 11 June 2025.

RE was chased onto the train tracks at Colindale Station by Metropolitan Police officers while experiencing acute behavioural disturbance (ABD). He subsequently died by electrocution. The inquest focused on the actions of the Met and Transport for London for retrieving him before he died.

HM Coroner found that the officers left the station without confirming that RE was safe. As they left, they told members of the public on the platform that RE was no longer on the tracks. This was factually incorrect. TfL relied on the public to confirm that RE had left the area and the current was switched back on. Relevant rules were not followed, and there was a missed opportunity for proper communication between TfL and the Met. If the rules had been followed, the power supply would not have been switched on, and a proper search would have been possible. In addition, a search train sent to find RE was inadequately equipped and caused him to be run over.

HM Coroner concluded that RE died because of a failure to follow a proper process for recovering a person from a stretch of railway. A PFD will be made to TfL due to concerns about the lack of detail in the rules for switching the electric current back on in these circumstances.

Frank was instructed by Daniel Cooper of Imran Khan and Partners.

[Read BBC news coverage here.](#)

