

Lawrence Collins, Baron Collins of Mapesbury

Lawrence Antony Collins, Baron Collins of Mapesbury, PC, FBA (born 7 May 1941), is a British judge and former Justice of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom. He was also appointed to the Court of Final Appeal of Hong Kong on 11 April 2011 as a non-permanent judge from other common law jurisdictions.^[1] He was formerly a partner in the British law firm Herbert Smith. He is now a member of Essex Court Chambers and an Adjunct Professor of Law at NYU School of Law.

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Early life

Collins was born on 7 May 1941 and educated at the City of London School, and then at Downing College, Cambridge, graduating with a starred first in Law. He received an LL.M. degree from Columbia Law School in New York City and was admitted as a solicitor in 1968, becoming a partner at Herbert Smith in 1971 until his appointment as a judge in 2000. He served as head of the Litigation and Arbitration Department at Herbert Smith from 1995 to 1998. He and Arthur Marriott were the two first practising solicitors ever to be appointed Queen's Counsel, on 27 March 1997. As a solicitor-advocate, he appeared before the English Court of Appeal, the Judicial Committee of the House of Lords, and the European Court of Justice. He acted for the Government of Chile in the case to extradite General Pinochet. He has one daughter, Hannah, and one son, Aaron.

Judiciary

In 1997, he was appointed a Deputy High Court Judge, becoming a full-time Judge in the Chancery Division on 28 September 2000, at which time he left Herbert Smith. He was the first solicitor to be appointed as a judge of the High Court direct from private practice, and only the second solicitor to be appointed, after Sir Michael Sachs in 1993, who had previously sat as a circuit judge for nine years.^{[2][3]} In a landmark case in 2006, he required file sharers who had refused to settle with the British Phonographic Industry to pay damages running into thousands of pounds.^[4]

His appointment as a Lord Justice of Appeal (judge of the Court of Appeal) was announced on 11 January 2007, and he was sworn to the Privy Council a month later.^[5] On 8 April 2009, it was announced that he would replace Lord Hoffmann (who retired on 20 April 2009) as a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary.^[6] He is the first solicitor to be appointed to these senior levels of the judiciary.^[7] Accordingly, on 21 April 2009, he was created **Baron Collins of Mapesbury, of Hampstead Town in the London Borough of Camden**,^[8] and was introduced in the House of Lords on 28 April 2009. On 1 October 2009, he and nine other Lords of Appeal became Justices of the Supreme Court upon that body's inauguration.

He has been a fellow of Wolfson College, Cambridge, since 1975, and became a fellow of the British Academy in 1994. He is a member of the Institut de droit international. He has been the general editor of *Dicey & Morris*, the standard reference work on conflict of laws, since 1987, and it was retitled *Dicey, Morris and Collins* in its 14th edition, published in 2006.^[9] He is also the author of many other books and articles on private international law. He became a bencher of the Inner Temple in 2001.

Collins reached the compulsory retirement age of 70 on 7 May 2011 but stayed on as an acting justice until July.^[10] He has continued membership of the House of Lords, and sits as a crossbencher.

Significant judgments

The Right Honourable
The Lord Collins of Mapesbury
 PC FBA



Justice of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom

In office

1 October 2009 – 7 May 2011

Nominated by Jack Straw

Monarch Elizabeth II

Preceded by Position created

Succeeded by Lord Sumption

Lord of Appeal in Ordinary

In office

20 April 2009 – 30 September 2009

Preceded by The Lord Hoffmann

Succeeded by Position abolished

Lord Justice of Appeal

In office

2007–2009

High Court Judge

In office

2000–2007

Personal details

Born Lawrence Antony Collins
7 May 1941

Alma mater Downing College, Cambridge
Columbia Law School

Occupation Judge

Profession Law

- *HJ and HT v Home Secretary* [2010] UKSC 31: homosexuality in asylum claims
- *R v Bentley (Derek)* [1999] posthumous overturning of unsafe murder conviction

References

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2. Dyer, Clare (21 February 2000). "Pinochet lawyer to become judge" (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2000/feb/21/pinochet.chile>). *The Observer*.
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4. "Court rules against song-swappers" (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/4653662.stm>), *BBC News*, 27 January 2006.
5. "Privy Council Appointment of Sir Lawrence" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20071005090250/http://www.number10.gov.uk/output/Page10898.asp>). 10 Downing Street. 2 February 2007. Archived from the original (<http://www.number10.gov.uk/output/Page10898.asp>) on 5 October 2007. Retrieved 9 March 2014.
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9. Publication: Dacey, Morris & Collins on the Conflict of Laws (<http://www.conflictoflaws.net/2006/publications/publication-dacey-morris-collins-on-the-conflict-of-laws/>), [conflictoflaws.net](http://www.conflictoflaws.net), 14 October 2006.
10. "Former Justices" (<http://www.supremecourt.uk/about/former-justices.html>). Supreme Court of the United Kingdom. Retrieved 9 March 2014.

External links

- "Photograph" (https://web.archive.org/web/20120205025340/http://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/dow_server/mfs/honorary_fellows/L.A._Collins.html). Archived from the original (http://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/dow_server/mfs/honorary_fellows/L.A._Collins.html) on 5 February 2012. Retrieved 17 January 2007. from [Downing College](#)

Order of precedence

Preceded by The Lord Walker of Gestingthorpe <i>Non-Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal</i>	Hong Kong order of precedence <i>Non-Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal</i>	Succeeded by The Lord Clarke of Stone-cum-Ebony <i>Non-Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal</i>
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