

Association Award

Mr Alex Ruck Keene



Alex Ruck Keene is a barrister practising at 39 Essex Chambers in London, with a specialist interest in mental capacity and mental health law. He has been instructed by, or has advised, the Department of Health, NHS bodies, local authorities and the Official Solicitor, and the Association of Anaesthetists is lucky enough to have benefited from his expertise also over the last few years.

I first encountered Alex on the Association's Consent Working Party. It was soon pretty clear that he was going to be a huge asset to the group, with his clarity of thought and detailed knowledge of the topic. In fact, he rapidly became indispensable, as the inevitable queries arose about the finer points of law – especially when it came to pulling together the different legal frameworks in the devolved nations and Ireland. Alex's comments and advice are always incisive, helpful and gracious, and he is one of the fastest email responders I've encountered, day or night. His presentation on the The Mental Capacity Act at WSM 2017 is one of the clearest, informative and entertaining videos about law on the Association's video platform, Learn@AAGBI, and well worth watching (see <https://learnataagbi.org/video/play/733>). When the consent guidance had been published, and he was asked to suggest a colleague or contact whom we might approach to join the Association's working party on Jehovah's Witnesses and blood transfusion, he typically replied (within seconds) with an offer to help out himself; this was gratefully accepted and he proved as useful on that working party as on the consent one.

Alex has written textbooks, handbooks, chapters, articles and policy documents, and teaches and lectures widely, including via honorary/visiting positions at the University of Manchester and King's College London. The Association is both fortunate and grateful for the hard work that he has devoted to all those working in the field in general, and to the Association in particular, for which he truly deserves the honour of a Foundation Award.

Dr Steve Yentis
Consultant Anaesthetist



**Association
of Anaesthetists**