



commercial

an impressive set
which is in tune with
the client's needs
from the outset

Chambers UK

who we are

Devereux is one of the UK's leading commercial and common law sets with top ranked barristers in all areas in which we practise.

We are proud of our reputation for high quality advocacy and advice evidenced by the fact that we are regularly instructed in some of the most prominent cases. Our barristers work closely with our clerks and other members of the team to ensure we deliver the first class service our commercial clients have come to expect.

The excellence of our barristers is recognised by directories such as Chambers UK and Legal 500. What is more, some of our commercial cases have been heralded as the 'Cases of 2010, 2011 and 2012' by The Lawyer magazine.

Our commercial expertise encompasses a broad range of business-related disputes, with a particular emphasis on insurance, reinsurance, telecommunications, energy, commercial contracts, professional negligence, banking, finance, environmental law and High Court employment disputes.

We offer clients a breadth of experience across all types of commercial dispute resolution - in particular civil litigation, arbitration and mediation.

"Devereux is 'particularly commended for their provision of quality service'." [Chambers UK](#)

insurance & reinsurance

Insurance and reinsurance law is a major part of our work. We boast some of the leaders in the field and are regularly involved in the leading cases of the day, including the Employers' Liability ('EL Trigger') litigation, the 'Toxic Sofas' litigation, claims arising out of riots at the Yarl's Wood Detention Centre and the collapse of the Tesco Tunnel near Gerrards Cross, as well as litigation arising out of the attacks on the World Trade Centre in New York and the collapse of the Italian company Parmalat. Other substantial insurance disputes are dealt with in confidential arbitrations.

“Colin Edelman QC is an ‘exceedingly bright and wonderfully persuasive’ advocate with ‘excellent cross-examination skills’.” [Chambers UK](#)

We are instructed in all aspects of work undertaken in the London market including directors' and officers' policies, product and public liability insurance, professional indemnity, run-off policies, PHI, and facultative and treaty reinsurance. We regularly appear and advise in cases involving the whole range of insurance issues, often appearing in multi-party litigation and representing insureds, insurers, insurance brokers and third party claimants.

Areas of work include:

- Construction of policy and treaty wordings
- Breach of warranties
- Avoidance for non-disclosure and misrepresentation
- Clauses - aggregation, claims co-operation and control clauses and follow the settlements clauses
- Affirmation
- Waiver and estoppel
- ICOB and claims with a foreign dimension

telecommunications & IT

Chambers has over the years had extensive involvement in some of the leading telecommunications cases, for example Mercury Communications v Director General of Telecommunications (regulatory powers), BT v Northumbria Water (wayleaves), Toneylogo v BT (AIT), the Termination Rates Determination (Dispute Resolution), Private Partial Circuits cost orientation (breach of SMP obligations) and 080 numbers charging (interface of regulatory and private law rights), involving hearings in the High Court, the Competition Appeal Tribunal and the Court of Appeal.

“Graham Read QC is one of the genuinely few people at the Bar with a broad experience of telecoms work. He takes on a wide spectrum of cases, including regulatory actions and also contract litigation, not to mention real property matters concerning telecommunications infrastructure.” [Chambers UK](#)

Our work includes acting for BT plc and other telecoms companies not only in Court-based litigation and arbitrations, but also contract drafting, advisory work and acting as Neutral Evaluators in telecoms disputes.

For example members of chambers have experience in:

- Regulatory issues and competition law
- Mobile telephone network communications
- Technical telecommunications issues including multi media and computer related problems
- Tariff charging cases
- Interconnection Agreements
- Artificial Inflation of Traffic (AIT)
- Dial Through Fraud
- Wayleave disputes relating to telecommunications equipment

professional negligence

We advise and represent clients from a wide range of professions and trades and are involved in the whole spectrum of work from advising clients as to the merits and quantum of cases through to drafting pre-action protocol letters of claim and response, statements of case and mediation position statements, to attending mediations and representing clients in arbitrations, at trial or on appeal.

“Colin Edelman QC is a stand out name in professional negligence. Solicitors praise him as ‘a master strategist’ and ‘a crisp and clear advocate’.”

Chambers UK

A great deal of our work is conducted for professional clients and their insurers, but members of chambers also regularly act for claimants across the whole width of professional negligence claims. We are also instructed in relation to related insurance coverage issues.

“Ben Lynch is a ‘hard-working strategist’ who provides ‘thorough, robust and pragmatic advice’.”

Chambers UK

Members are experienced in dealing with the following professions:

- Lawyers - solicitors and barristers
- Finance - accountants, auditors, independent financial advisers, insurance brokers
- Agents - managing agents at Lloyd’s
- Construction - architects, structural engineers, surveyors and valuers, and other advisers
- Consultants - agriculture, IT and telecommunications

other expertise

General Commercial

We advise and represent clients across a wide range of commercial contracts and business disputes. Our expertise spans areas as diverse as agriculture to manufacturing and e-commerce.

Energy & Natural Resources

We have substantial experience in the field of energy law. Members act for oil and gas majors and national utilities, providing advice and litigation services, particularly in the context of international arbitration.

Finance

We have wide experience of banking, finance and consumer credit cases. Members regularly undertake work involving fixed and floating securities, asset finance, receivables financing and guarantees. In addition members conduct commercial and financial fraud cases, insolvency applications and financial regulatory work.

Conflicts of Laws

We have extensive experience in all aspects of advice and representation involving conflicts of laws issues and our expertise is regularly sought in this vast area of commercial law.

Arbitration & Mediation

We offer clients a breadth of experience across all types of commercial dispute resolution - in particular civil litigation, arbitration and mediation.

our approach

Our barristers are perceptive, responsive and down-to-earth and have the support of an impeccable business services team.

We aim to provide responsive and commercially insightful advice of the highest quality, tailored to the needs of our clients.

We are known for getting the best results possible. Through partnership with our clients, we are able to fully understand the wider implications of the brief and make applications of the law which are commercially sensitive, straight-forward and effective.

“Alison Padfield is ‘conscientious, highly thorough and detailed’.” [Chambers UK](#)

Members are contributors to the profession and they have written and co-written prominent practitioners’ texts in our specialist fields such as Insurance Claims by **Alison Padfield** and Law of Reinsurance by **Colin Edelman QC** as well as **Ben Lynch** who is an Editor of MacGillivray on Insurance Law. We also write for legal publications such as the New Law Journal and Insurance & Reinsurance Law Briefing.

“Richard Harrison has ‘a good sense of how to identify the relevant issues and answer them in a clear fashion’.” [Chambers UK](#)

We provide our clients with an ongoing programme of CPD accredited seminars and are able to deliver bespoke training programmes upon request.

what they say

“Colin Wynter QC is popular for insurance, reinsurance and broker cases. He commands respect for his ‘commercial awareness,’ and delivers advice with a ‘down-to-earth style’.” [Chambers UK](#)

“Within Information technology, Graham Read QC is ranked a Leading Silk known for being ‘tenacious in driving a strategy forward’.” [Legal 500](#)

“Blessed with ‘crisp and concise writing skills,’ Andrew Burns is considered ‘extremely confident and a friendly face on any case’.” [Chambers UK](#)

“The set’s advocates win considerable praise for talking the language of the insurers and for their work advising brokers and third-party claimants.”
[Chambers UK](#)

“Richard Harrison expresses ‘sound and reliable opinions’ and brings ‘bright and innovative ideas’ to a case.” [Chambers UK](#)

“Alison Padfield whose ‘client care skills are second to none’.” [Legal 500](#)

“Ben Lynch is ‘very pragmatic, extremely thorough, develops a good rapport with clients who are facing claims and a solid ally for his instructing solicitors’.”
[Legal Week Top-10 Junior Barristers](#)

“Colin Edelman QC is ‘first class’ and ‘one of the bright stars of the international arbitration circuit’.”
[Chambers UK](#)

what we do

We are a modern, dynamic, approachable set of barristers, with a great reputation for an outstanding level of service.

We provide top class legal expertise to a wide range of national and international clients, from commercial contracts, insurance and reinsurance to employment and professional negligence.

Offering a strong portfolio of barristers who are effective at all levels and staff who 'go the extra mile'; we seek to consistently exceed our clients' expectations.

Commercial Practice Areas

- Insurance & Reinsurance
- Professional Negligence
- Telecommunications & IT
- Energy & Natural Resources
- General Commercial
- Finance

“It has put the whole question of catering to the client’s needs right at the forefront of its thinking.”

Chambers UK

other areas of work

Employment

- Dismissals & Employment Rights
- Equality
- Industrial Relations
- Pay, Incentives & Pensions
- Restrictive Covenants & Injunctions

Tax

- Tax assessments, disputes and litigation
- Discoveries, investigations, statutory powers, disclosure opportunities
- Tax avoidance and anti-avoidance
- Residence, domicile, DTAs
- Capital Allowances
- Remuneration structures and taxation of employees
- Financial regulation, money laundering and proceeds of crime

Clinical Negligence

Personal Injury

- Accidents Abroad & International Travel
- Employers Liability
- Neurotrauma
- Spinal Injury

Cross Practice

- Arbitration & Mediation
- Conflict of Laws
- Human Rights
- Partnership
- Regulatory & Professional Discipline
- Sports Law

how to instruct us

We aim to provide responsive, flexible and timely advice of the highest quality, tailored to the needs of our clients.

Our clerks are always willing to advise on the suitability and availability of counsel and to discuss fee structures.

We believe that our continued success is down to our high quality legal expertise and competitive rates, combined with our down-to-earth and supportive approach to dealing with clients. This reflects the overriding ethos of Devereux – providing first class service to all our clients.

If you would like further information about our expertise in commercial law, or about the way we work in general, or to arrange a meeting, please contact:

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“The ‘receptive and helpful’ clerks are ‘never anything but accommodating’ and left solicitors impressed since they are ‘interested in wanting to know what we want rather than just content to sell their people to us’.” [Chambers UK](#)



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