

Chambers UK  
Edition 2013

Leading set  
Leading silks  
Leading juniors

The Devereux Chambers brand has become increasingly linked with strong client service in recent years, which commentators put down to the set-wide leadership of the CEO and the Head Clerk, Vince Plant. The set is positioning itself as a far more commercial and client orientated organisation, and the results have been impressive, with instructing solicitors quick to praise the "excellent job the set does with client service".

The clerking team draws particular praise as being "highly approachable and always responsive, no matter what time of the day or night", but what impresses commentators is that "Devereux Chambers from top to bottom is just a great set and very easy to use; you get responsive clerking, effective time management from counsel, and fantastic work feedback." One recent further step in the modernisation and commercialisation of the set has been the launch of its new website, which has been designed with the clients' needs firmly in mind.

Devereux recently secured a double award win as Insurance Set of the Year and Insurance Silk of the Year at the recent annual Chambers Bar Awards 2012. The Awards are based upon independent research conducted for the recent 2013 edition of Chambers UK.

### Clinical Negligence

**Devereux** is ranked as a leading set – "Has a personal injury and clinical negligence team that is highly experienced and undertakes a variety of cases ranging from multi-track to maximum severity cases. The group acts for publicly funded and trade unions clients as well as NHS trusts and individual clinicians."

**Robert Glancy QC** – "Is a seasoned expert in clinical and professional negligence claims, who handles a wide range of cases but is particularly strong on cerebral palsy claims. He recently obtained a multimillion-pound settlement for a claimant whose spinal cord was severed by a neurosurgeon."

**Robert Weir QC** – "The "extremely intelligent and able" Robert Weir QC is "a go-to barrister for the most complex claims." He habitually handles cerebral palsy and other brain injury cases, and recently handled a claim concerning cerebral palsy which arose as a result of an episode of hypoxia shortly after birth."

**Richard Cartwright** – “The "solid and reliable" Richard Cartwright Band 2 is equally comfortable on liability and quantum. He handles clients "with great sensitivity" and is excellent in negotiation and "fantastic with figures" according to those that instruct him.”

## Education

**Oliver Hyams** – “Is "supportive," "very thorough," "hard-working" and "an extremely bright and confident advocate.", and wins market approval.”

## Employment

**Devereux** is ranked as a leading set – “This set has impressive expertise at all levels of seniority and its members frequently act in ground-breaking cases. It remains the chambers of choice for industrial relations disputes for many large private and public sector employers and has a thriving, high-value discrimination practice. Market sources note the consistent, client service-focused approach across all levels of seniority.”

**Timothy Brennan QC** – “The "extremely reassuring" Timothy Brennan QC is acclaimed by market sources as "someone to go to when it really matters." He is frequently instructed by clients in the City and accountancy firms to advise on employment matters with a tax element. Brennan recently appeared in the Supreme Court in *Autoclenz v Belcher*, a case on employment status and other issues.”

**Bruce Carr QC** – “Has "real gravitas, excellent judgement, great advocacy skills and a calm and commercial manner with clients," impressed sources report. His areas of expertise include high-value discrimination claims, contractual issues arising from change management and industrial relations. His recent highlights include his representation of Haringey Council in claims brought by the social workers in charge of Baby P.”

**Peter Edwards** – “Has a thriving appellate practice in employment and industrial relations matters. He was recently involved in *Transocean International Resources v Craig* in the Supreme Court, the final stage of the *Offshore Workers, Working Time Regulation* litigation.”

**Andrew Burns** – “The "approachable" and "charming" Andrew Burns is commended for his "hard-working," "enthusiastic" and "knowledgeable" manner. He recently acted for the employers in a leading industrial action case, *ASLEF v London Midland and RMT v Serco*.”

**Akash Nawbatt** – “Is "highly pragmatic and commercial" and "has great client care skills and a down-to-earth approach," sources say. He recently represented Haringey Council in the Court of Appeal in a claim brought by Sharon Shoemith regarding the termination of her employment as head of Haringey's children's services following the death of Baby P.”

**Shaen Catherwood** – “Is "experienced, thorough and excellent with clients," market sources report. He recently appeared in the Court of Appeal in *Tiffin v Lester Aldridge*, in which the court considered whether a fixed share partner of a limited liability partnership is an employee.”

**Sophie Belgrove** – “Is "an effective cross-examiner, whose approachable style makes her highly client-friendly," impressed sources say. She has recently represented British Airways in industrial action litigation in the High Court and in the Employment Tribunal.”

**Lucinda Harris** – “Is acting for Transport for London in the Employment Tribunal and Employment Appeal Tribunal. She has notable expertise on discrimination matters.”

## Fraud: Criminal (London)

**Jonathan Fisher QC** – “Is "an extremely experienced leader who is very easy to work with and who is very used to working across the criminal and civil sphere." He has great experience of money laundering and sanctions cases.”

## Health & Safety

**Stephen Killalea QC** – “One solicitor said that Stephen Killalea QC of Devereux Chambers "is a great tactician and an effective but understated advocate. He is particularly good when handling clients with sensitive issues." Killalea has particular experience of dealing with fatal accidents, and also acts in an advisory capacity assisting with risk management and health and safety policies. Recently, he has been acting for the defendants in R v Oak Farm Gas Company Limited, a case involving a fatality after a gas explosion.”

## Insurance

**Devereux** is ranked as a leading set – “Insurance and reinsurance is a core area for this well-regarded set. Its team deals with directors' and officers' policies, product and public liability insurance and professional indemnity, to mention but a few areas of expertise. It is active on a number of highly publicised cases such as the EL Trigger litigation, and Royal Insurance & Others v Rolls-Royce, a case relating to substantial losses arising from defects in ships' engines supplied by Rolls-Royce.”

**Colin Edelman QC** – “Receives compliments from all quarters for his "clear and cogent advocacy style." One source states: "He is in a class of his own, as he is technically excellent, and has a sharp mind and a down-to-earth manner." Edelman is to be seen in the vast majority of the major insurance cases. He had roles in both the EL Trigger litigation and the Rolls-Royce case mentioned above.”

**Richard Harrison** – "Is the kind of barrister who is always willing to go the extra mile. As well as being technically superb, he is approachable and pleasant to work with." He has experience as both counsel and arbitrator in a wide variety of insurance and reinsurance disputes.”

**Alison Padfield** – “Is increasing her market reputation and is seen as a "shrewd and effective advocate." As a highly skilled junior she continues to make her presence felt on key cases. Recently, she acted in Synergy Health (UK) Ltd v CGU Insurance, a huge business interruption insurance and brokers' negligence claim arising out of a property fire.”

**Andrew Burns** – “Has assisted with many of the insurance team's most significant cases, including the EL Trigger litigation and the Toxic Sofas litigation. His instructing solicitors greatly appreciate his 'collaborative style of working and his calm manner.'”

## International Arbitration: Arbitrators (London)

**Colin Edelman QC** – “A highly regarded arbitrator and advocate at Devereux Chambers, and is considered a standout member of the International Arbitration Bar. His particular focus is on reinsurance and insurance disputes.”

## International Arbitration: General Commercial & Insurance (London)

**Colin Edelman QC** – “Is "one of the leading counsel and arbitrators in insurance-related work," and is highly valued by instructing solicitors as a "terrific advocate." Sources note his "great knowledge of insurance law," and the past year has seen him act in a range of related arbitrations.”

## Personal Injury

**Devereux** is ranked as a leading set – “Devereux Chambers' team covers the full range of complex and high-level personal injury cases. It tackles severe brain and spinal cord injury matters, psychiatric injury cases and other claims involving severe and debilitating injuries. Commentators note the set's regular involvement in challenging and high-profile cases, such as Smith and others v Ministry of Defence, a much publicised alleged negligence claim where the team acted for the family of members of the armed forces killed in Iraq.”

**Robert Glancy QC** – “Robert Glancy QC's practice is concentrated on clinical negligence and personal injury cases. He typically, although not exclusively, represents claimants, and is highly

regarded for his considerable expertise in catastrophic brain and spinal injury cases. Commentators note that 'there is unlikely to be a more experienced personal injury counsel at the Bar - he has an enormous amount of courtroom experience and is not fazed by high-level settlements.'

**Stephen Killalea QC** – “‘Expertly handles the full range of maximum severity cases.’ His practice is split between health and safety and personal injury, and he is widely regarded for his representation of claimants in catastrophic brain and spinal injury cases. Instructing solicitors positively enjoy working with a barrister who is ‘simply a delight with clients, but also offers all-round tactical ability.’”

**Robert Weir QC** – “Acts for a broad range of clients, and receives instructions from both claimants and defendants. He "is an exceptional advocate and a brilliant problem solver who displays a high attention to detail" in all he does. He is further praised by instructing solicitors for his "sympathetic and down-to-earth" approach to clients. He appeared in *Smith and others v Ministry of Defence*, the much publicised case concerning members of the armed forces killed in Iraq.”

**Bruce Silvester** – “Is "a fearsome advocate who is capable of handling the most complex and high value of claims." He has many years of experience of a wide variety of personal injury claims, and is highly regarded for his expertise in cases involving brain and spinal injuries. He acted in *Mark Lynch v CEVA Logistics*, acting for the claimant, an electrician who was crushed under a fork-lift truck in the defendant's warehouse.”

**Colin Mendoza** – “Receives regular instructions from both defendants and claimants in catastrophic injury cases involving spinal cord injury and brain damage. He acted in *Virgo v Howie*, a case brought by the claimant following a severe injury in a road traffic accident.”

### POCA Work & Asset Forfeiture (all circuits)

**Jonathan Fisher QC** – “Is "academically very bright" and "knows exactly what he's doing" when it comes to POCA work. A chartered tax adviser and noted expert on money laundering, he has extensive knowledge of white-collar crime, and is a savvy choice for any complex POCA work.

### Professional Negligence

**Colin Edelman QC** – “Has an outstanding reputation as "the number one insurance coverage specialist at the Bar." He displays real depth of knowledge and is a "very distinguished, highly sought-after barrister." His recent cases include those involving *Chubb* and *Ernst & Young*.”

### Tax

**Timothy Brennan QC** – “Is "a very good, robust" performer and "a fine tactician," who brings a real breadth of knowledge to his work. He is an especially good choice for clients seeking to resolve workplace-related tax disputes. His recent cases have included *Autoclenz Ltd v Belcher*, a Supreme Court case examining employee tax status.”

**Jonathan Fisher QC** – “At the same set, Jonathan Fisher QC is an "engaging, client-friendly barrister" who brings "great commercial acumen" to his cases. An expert on tax-related fraud, he is a veteran of many cases concerning investigations by HMRC. Recently, he has been instructed by the House of Commons Treasury Committee to act as a special adviser in its investigation into the LIBOR scandal.”

### Telecommunications

**Graham Read QC** – “Is a "very hard-hitting litigator" with an "enormous amount of experience in the area." He recently persuaded the CAT to overturn an Ofcom decision which would have affected BT's ladder pricing.”

## Travel

**Robert Weir QC** – “Has acted on personal injury matters for some years. His travel practice sees him act particularly on matters with a maritime aspect, and he recently advised on *Saldanha v Fulton*, a case concerning injury to an Indian merchant seaman. Sources describe him as an ‘excellent advocate.’”

**Bruce Silvester** – “Bruce Silvester of the same set offers “assertive advocacy,” and acts on anything from large illness group actions to RTA fatalities. Solicitors speak of his “fantastic client skills,” noting that “he can be quite direct with clients and sometimes you need the barrister to be like that.” He advised on *Barltrop v TUI*, which concerned a serious coach accident in Bulgaria.”

For more information on all our barristers, please visit the ‘Barristers’ section on [www.devereuxchambers.co.uk](http://www.devereuxchambers.co.uk) or contact our practice managers on 020 7353 7534 or email [clerks@devchambers.co.uk](mailto:clerks@devchambers.co.uk).