



Chambers UK
Edition 2014

Leading set
Leading silks
Leading juniors

Members of Devereux received a total of 48 individual listings across 17 practice areas in Chambers UK 2014 edition. Devereux sits within the top 50 sets with the most barrister ranking and the highest proportion of barrister rankings. 6 members have received new entries, 9 rose a rank, whilst Colin Edelman QC was marked as a Star Individual.

Clinical Negligence

Devereux is ranked as a leading set – “A chambers whose barristers have long-standing expertise in complex clinical negligence matters. Members represent individual claimants, GPs and other healthcare individuals, and major medical defence bodies such as the NHSLA. The clerks are very friendly, approachable and willing to work with us. If there is conflict in the diary, or if any problems arise, they are proactive in finding a solution.”

Robert Glancy QC – “An esteemed silk who acts primarily for claimants who have suffered from catastrophic brain and spinal injuries, particularly children with cerebral palsy. “He is a silk of the highest order. Whether it’s liability or quantum issues that he is dealing with, he is always on top of the case. His fantastic advocacy and willingness to fight provide absolute security when he is on board” Assisted a claimant with complicated assessment of damages for cerebral palsy claim where liability was never disputed. The settlement value as a lump sum equivalent was over £11 million.”

Robert Weir QC – “Is appreciated as a highly intelligent barrister with a substantial practice in clinical negligence and personal injury, particularly in cases involving Human Rights Act aspects. The breadth of medical issues his work has covered recently includes failure to diagnose meningitis, negligence by psychiatric units and failure to diagnose cancer. “He is top-notch. Incredibly intelligent, he cuts through all of the gloss from the other side and gets straight to the point. You can have a huge case and he’ll cut through it in no time. Very firm with the other side, he is fantastic on complex medical issues and a brilliant advocate as well.” Represented a claimant who sustained a neck injury in a road traffic accident following which she received surgery at hospital. Following a disc replacement operation to the neck, she was rendered tetraplegic. The case is against the road traffic defendant and the NHS trust responsible for the hospital, and involves difficult issues liability and causation.”

Richard Cartwright – “Is a junior who handles a good deal of high-value cases covering conditions such as cerebral palsy, jaundice and Erb’s palsy. His experience as a chartered accountant assists him in tackling the complex financial calculations involved in quantum claims. “He is meticulous with his figures and his attention to detail is very good. He is also innovative in the way he thinks about cases, and doesn’t like to let things go as he simply wants the best for the client.” Acted for a claimant who suffered from high-severity cerebral palsy, following the alleged mismanagement of the claimant’s mother’s admission to hospital immediately prior to term.”

Education

Oliver Hyams – “Is most well-known for his work on employment matters for the education sector; Hyams has broad experience in acting for educational institutions and related organisations in judicial reviews, appeals and in SENDIST. He is rated for his practical advice. “He puts his heart of soul into it.” “Combining his expertise in employment law with education is very helpful.” He has acted in *Lindop v Red House Academy*, defending a claim of unfair dismissal of an employee who had been convicted of firearms offences in Northern Ireland.”

Employment

Devereux is ranked as a leading set – “Devereux Chambers has a fine reputation for employment work, and an impressive spread of barristers adept at handling a variety of the most significant disputes in the market. Many of the practitioners here are leaders in their respective fields and, between them, have substantial experience of dealing with complex whistle-blowing, discrimination and restrictive covenant matters. “Barristers at Devereux are invariably thoughtful and practical”, noted one peer; “they seem to really understand the relevant commercial issues and to be capable client handlers.” The clerking team is one of its strengths; the clerks make a real effort to get to know you and go out their way to assist.”

Timothy Brennan QC – “A notably strong employment silk, whose thriving practice takes in, inter alia, disputes arising from remuneration planning. Sources acknowledge his strategic approach to potentially complex cases. “He’s at the cutting edge of employment law.” “He’s first-rate on board strategy and employee tax issues.” He appeared before the EAT in *Hammonds LLP v Mwitita*, a case that examined the burden of proof in race discrimination.”

Bruce Carr QC – “One of the top employment silks, who is renowned for his ground-breaking work in the industrial relations field. He is hailed by peers for his ability to skilfully handle clients from all backgrounds. “A pleasure to deal with”, he is “a man of incisive judgement with a calm and effective demeanour.” He acted in *LUL v ASLEF*, an injunction application that sought to prevent Boxing Day strikes by tube-drivers.”

Peter Edwards – “Is regularly instructed by a range of trade unions and strong choice for representation at appellate level. He recently acted for pilots union Skyshare in a landmark case concerning the territorial restrictions of unions. “He is my first choice in both high-value complex discrimination matters and collective redundancy cases”. “A TUPE guru.” He was instructed by the claimants in *Unite & Others v Government of the United Kingdom* in a claim brought before the ECHR concerning the alleged failure of the UK government to protect workers penalised for taking lawful strike action.”

Andrew Burns – “One of the most sought-after juniors for complex industrial relations cases; he also had additional strength in the restrictive covenant field. “Very commercial in his approach, he will go the extra mile to provide strategic advice.” One solicitor stated: “I regard him as the primary up-and-comer in the industrial relations area.” He obtained a successful result concerning the legality of withdrawing travel benefits from certain employees.”

Akash Nawbatt – “A leading junior whose broad-based employment practice is testament to his mastery of the area. Peers value his ability to deal with urgent injunctions and restrictive covenant disputes. “He is quite simply excellent; he has all the qualities one wants in counsel.” “He’s got a great manner with clients and great technical knowledge, and displays great attention to detail.” He acted

for Sharon Shoesmith v London Borough of Haringey and Secretary of State for Education, a widely reported unfair dismissal case.”

Shaen Catherwood – “A highly rated junior of 13 year’s call, whom peers recognise for his strength in tribunal hearings. He frequently represents his clients in the EAT. “He gives easy-to-understand advice and provides clear strategy.” He obtained a successful result for the appellant in Cavanagh v William Evans. The case examined whether an employer could avoid a contractual payment upon belatedly discovering gross misconduct had been committed.”

Sophie Belgrove – “A junior member of chambers, whose specialism lies in acting for established financial services companies across a variety of employment disputes. She is acclaimed for her technical expertise and fine client-handling skills. “She was extraordinarily good on one case, in terms of both client familiarity and points of law. She’s going to be a real star.” “She sees the big picture well and is commercially astute.” She was led by Bruce Carr in Bridgeman v Associated British Ports, a dispute concerning Working Time Regulations.”

Alice Mayhew – “A skilful junior whose practice embraces discrimination and breach of contract disputes. Sources particularly value her incisive cross-examinations. “She doesn’t get waylaid by irrelevant points.” “She becomes part of the team and readily offers support to both clients and witnesses.” She was involved in Butler v Mellons & Another, a discrimination case brought before the EAT.”

Lucinda Harris – “A wide-ranging employment practice that embraces discrimination, victimisation and unfair dismissal claims. She is singled out for her strength in representing clients at tribunal level. “She is great at helping clients through the tribunal process,” and “is a smart cross-examiner who is great with clients.” She remains involved in the on-going O’Cathail v Transport for London litigation.”

Laura Bell – “An up-and-coming employment barrister, whose stable of clients includes several established financial sector multinationals. Recently, she has been instructed in an adversarial capacity to Citigroup in a multimillion-pound multi-discrimination claim. “She is popular with clients, in whom she inspires confidence.” She obtained successful results for all of the respondents in Samir Jamiluddin v British Airways, Tim Steeds & Willie Walsh, a multi-discrimination claim.”

Thomas Cordrey – “Practises across the entire employment spectrum, but is best known for his work on religious discrimination. He is credited by sources for his impressive style of advocacy. “Very good on discrimination cases, he’s able to absorb and analyse a lot of complex detail very quickly.” He is involved in McFarlane v Relate Avon, a religious discrimination case.”

Fraud: Criminal (London)

Jonathan Fisher QC – “Viewed as the go-to silk for cases involving tax or money laundering. He is regularly called upon to advise on complex white-collar issues. “A very thorough and careful advisor.” “He gets to grips with issues quickly and feeds back to clients in language they understand.” He advised a high-profile individual in relation to allegations of tax evasion which were being investigated by HMRC.”

Health & Safety

Stephen Killalea QC – “An adept silk with a strong standing in the related area of personal injury. He is a popular choice for acting for companies in connection with fatal and life-changing injuries sustained by employees. “He is extremely sharp and incisive.” “In addition to being a first-rate advocate, he has a great ability to connect and understand what a client wants; he is exceptional.” He was instructed in R v Oak Farm Gas Company Limited, which related to injuries sustained due to the explosion of a gas cylinder.”

Insurance

Devereux is ranked as a leading set – “Devereux enjoys a good reputation for handling high-profile, complex insurance and reinsurance matters, and is seen acting for the major companies in the

market. The set contains barristers who are expert in property matters, Bermuda Form arbitrations and asbestos-related disease claims. They also have notable experience in matters relating to the Lloyd's market. Barristers from the set frequently appear in international disputes."

Colin Edelman QC – "Hailed as the foremost premier insurance silk in the market, he commands respect and admiration for his vast experience in insurance and reinsurance law. One source remarked: "You can't mention insurance without hearing his name." "He's just everything you'd want in a silk – authoritative, exceptionally bright, user-friendly, and a man with no airs and graces. He's wonderful." "He has an incredibly sharp mind and such an excellent bedside manner. He could not be recommended more highly." Acted for the reinsurers W R Berkley Insurance and Aspen in a significant claim brought by Teal Assurance, regarding a 'top and drop' reinsurance policy."

Richard Harrison – "Praised by sources for his ability to handle an extensive range of insurance and reinsurance matters. "He has an incisive mind and often manages to bring a different view to the issues he is asked to advise on," states one source. "Very intelligent, and has a wealth of knowledge on insurance-related matters. He is very approachable, which makes for excellent collaboration." Represented Akzo Nobel and AMEC, led by Colin Edelman QC, in the long-running, high-profile EL Trigger litigation."

Alison Padfield – "Known for her deep knowledge of insurance and reinsurance law, she is commended for her experience in professional indemnity and business interruption claims. "Very user-friendly, very responsive and easy to get on with." Led by Colin Edelman, she acted for W R Berkley Insurance and Aspen in a case regarding a claim brought by Teal Assurance."

Andrew Burns – "Wins acclaim for his broad insurance practice and is enjoying a swiftly growing profile following his appearance in the EL Trigger litigation. He is described as "an excellent junior who will go far." "He provides unfussy, concise advice and always gives a firm opinion in a no-nonsense manner. He is an absolute pleasure to deal with, as he does not stand on ceremony and is highly personable." Appeared in Aviva Insurance v Brown, acting for the insured regarding a property insurance claim against Aviva."

International Arbitration: Arbitrators (London)

Colin Edelman QC – "A commercial heavyweight who is frequently a top choice for market commentators thanks to his extensive experience as an arbitrator and his notable insurance and reinsurance expertise. "One of my first picks as an arbitrator - he is incredibly impressive."

International Arbitration: General Commercial & Insurance (London)

Colin Edelman QC – "Highlighted for his long-standing experience both as advocate and arbitrator. He handles a range of commercial disputes, and offers particular expertise in insurance and reinsurance matters. "He is brilliant at studying a brief. He can pick up a case and immediately provide value, insight and guidance on how it should proceed."

Personal Injury

Devereux is ranked as a leading set – "Noted for its focus on high-value catastrophic work and for its bench strength, Devereux is regarded by many as a standout set within the Personal Injury Bar. Its members are experienced across the full range of complex, severe personal injury claims, and are frequently involved in significant, high-profile actions. 'They always give great service and they're always willing to listen.'"

Robert Glancy QC – "Well known for his handling of high-level personal injury claims; he has particular experience of cases involving catastrophic brain and spinal injuries, severe psychiatric injury, and fatalities. "He's very experienced, comfortable in the courtroom, and has a very pleasant and easy manner with clients, which makes a difficult process much more palatable for them." Represented the claimant in a recent case involving catastrophic brain injuries"

Stephen Killalea QC – “Noted in particular for his handling of matters relating to liability, he specialises in complex, high-value catastrophic claims relating to extremely severe brain and spinal injuries. He is commended by instructing solicitors for his advocacy and for his ability with clients. "If he believes there are prospects he'll fight a case. He's utterly brilliant at advocacy - it's a pleasure to watch." "He's brilliant with clients - he has a down-to-earth, matter-of-fact manner. He always gets a handle on the key issues and his advice is succinct and to the point." Instructed by the claimant in a catastrophic injury claim arising from a river diving accident.”

Robert Weir QC – “An enviable level of expertise in catastrophic injury claims and is highly rated for his client manner, his skill in court and his performances in negotiation. Sources also comment on his knowledge of technical matters. "He's very eminent - everyone knows he's the superstar of my generation. He's a class act." "He's a go-to leader. He's absolutely excellent - his technical ability is fantastic and he has a dogged determination in negotiation." Led in *Smith and others v Ministry of Defence*, a case establishing that the Human Rights Act applies to soldiers serving in Iraq.”

Bruce Silvester – “Centres his practice on complex catastrophic injury claims, particularly those involving spinal, brain and orthopaedic injuries. He acts primarily for claimants, and is noted by instructing solicitors for his ability with clients and his committed advocacy. "He charms the pants off clients in conference." "I instruct him on cases where you'd use a silk; he ought to be one. He doesn't flinch and shows courage." Acted for the claimant in a case establishing liability against the owner of a public pool in a claim for catastrophic injuries.”

Colin Mendoza – “Represents both claimants and defendants, concentrating on serious and catastrophic injury claims. He has extensive experience of cases with elements of fraud and those involving severe psychiatric injury, and is often instructed against leaders. "Offers great quality, pragmatic, strategic advice." Acted for the claimant in a case arising from a road traffic accident that resulted in catastrophic brain and orthopaedic injuries complicated by pre-existing Asperger syndrome.”

Richard Cartwright – “Specialises in extremely high-value catastrophic brain and spinal injury cases, and in claims relating to asbestos exposure and mesothelioma. His background in accountancy assists him in handling quantum issues. "He's extremely diligent and is very knowledgeable on damages." "He provides good, solid advice, has a wealth of experience behind him, and his advocacy skills are impeccable. He is pragmatic, sensible, approachable and popular with clients." Acted in a major catastrophic brain injury case, achieving a settlement for the claimant.”

Robert Hunter – “Recognised for his skill in dealing with high-value, complex personal injury claims, particularly those concerning fatalities and catastrophic brain and spinal injuries. He is noted for the clarity of his advice and for his client manner. "He's easy to contact and very responsive." "He's strong on quantum, and he has a decisive approach to liability." Acted in *Mellon v Universal Music Operations*, a case involving a contested subtle brain injury.”

POCA Work & Asset Forfeiture (all circuits)

Jonathan Fisher QC – “Handles high-profile money laundering and confiscation cases, and has the added benefit of tax and trusts law expertise. “An excellent lawyer with a fine grasp of complex issues.” “He's very good on the technical legal aspects, but doesn't mind deal in airy fairy theory. Instead he gets to the nitty gritty and understands the practicalities of a case.” Acted in *Wiese v UK Border Agency*, a case concerning more than half a million pounds seized at an airport from one of South Africa's richest businessmen.”

Professional Negligence

Colin Edelman QC – “A specialist insurance silk who regularly handles brokers' negligence claims, as well as those relating to policy and coverage. One solicitor said: "He's the person I'd get to defend me." "Hugely respected when it comes to insurance coverage disputes.””

Tax

Jonathan Fisher QC – “Acts both for the taxpayer and HMRC in a series of avoidance and evasion cases. He also deals with investigations in courts and tribunals. “He is calm, sure, and deadly at spotting the weaknesses of the opponent’s case.” He represented the Revenue in a complex First-tier Tribunal case concerning tax avoidance.”

Timothy Brennan QC – “Deals with a range of tax disputes including income tax and corporation tax matters in particular. He also specialises in tax cases as they relate to employment. “Displays both great intelligence and good attention to detail.” He acted for Next Distribution in a case surrounding the tax treatment of capital allowances for import and distribution warehouses.”

Jolyon Maugham – “Enjoys a healthy reputation in the market for the way in which he handles complicated tax disputes. His practice focuses on issues of avoidance, structured finance and employment tax. “He is an excellent tax litigator, a good strategist and someone who is very easy to work with.” He led the representation of Icebreaker Members Action Group in a case involving £300 million of tax losses.”

Telecommunications

Graham Read QC – “Pays great attention to detail and is quick to grasp important elements. He has been instructed in telecoms cases concerning contractual, regulatory and IP issues. “Technically good and user-friendly.” “He steers the ship well and stops people from falling out amongst themselves.” He acted for BT in a claim against Ofcom regarding ‘ladder-pricing’ for mobile network operators.”

Travel

Robert Weir QC – “Handles cases involving accidents abroad. Has also worked on a number of conflict of law matters. “He is razor-sharp in his analysis and has a wonderfully calm yet forceful nature when in court.” Represented an English paraplegic client injured in an RTA in France in *Wall v Mutuelle de Poitiers*. The case raised issues as to the extent to which French law affected the claim in light of Rome II.”

Bruce Silvester – “Has a practice that includes international personal injury cases including multiparty actions, amongst others. “He’s forensic, a great advocate and is always good to work with.” Successfully represented the claimants in *Barltrop & 22 Others v TUI UK Ltd*, a claim resulting from a serious coach crash in Bulgaria.”

For more information on all our barristers, please visit the ‘Barristers’ section on www.devereuxchambers.co.uk or contact our practice managers on 020 7353 7534 or email clerks@devchambers.co.uk.