



Chambers UK
Edition 2015

Leading set
Leading silks
Leading juniors

Devereux sits within the top 50 sets with the most barrister ranking and the highest proportion of barrister rankings. Members of Devereux received a total of 57 individual listings across 18 practice areas in Chambers UK 2015 edition. 10 members have new entries, 9 rose in ranking, whilst Colin Edelman QC and Robert Weir QC were recognised as Star Individuals.

Clinical Negligence

Devereux is ranked as a leading set – “The set really wins its spurs on high-value claimant cases, but its members are equally as experienced at acting for defendants, as evidenced by their representation of NHS trusts and health authorities. Interviewees stress the barristers' efficiency when it comes to complex clinical negligence issues, especially those relating to brain injury. Clients also highlight the efficiency of the clerking team, led by chambers director Vince Plant.”

Robert Glancy QC – “A highly respected silk with a top-level clinical negligence practice developed over 40 years at the Bar. He is regularly instructed on cases of high complexity and value, and is best known for representing claimants who have suffered catastrophic brain and spinal injury. He also has significant experience of acting for children with cerebral palsy. “Robert is a fund of knowledge and experience.” “A first choice for the more difficult cases, he brings a wealth of experience and is prepared to fight.” Acted for a claimant who brought a case following complications during the birth of a premature twin.”

Robert Weir QC – “A widely respected silk with great expertise and a broad practice. He is especially noted for acting for claimants on cases where cerebral palsy has developed due to perinatal and neonatal negligence. “He’s a formidable intellect and has a very strong courtroom presence.” “An extremely intelligent and able counsel, he’s always on top of the detail and able to grasp really complex issues.” Represented a child claimant with cerebral palsy.

Richard Cartwright – “A top-rated junior with 20 years' experience at the Bar, who is widely appreciated for his specialist clinical negligence and personal injury practice. A former chartered accountant, he is noted by market sources for his knowledge of quantum issues. “Richard Cartwright has a 'can do' approach to everything.”

He thrives on complex cases and is tenacious in getting the best result for the client. He is an intelligent and caring barrister." Acted for a wife in a dependency damages claim following the death of her husband. The husband had died from a haemorrhage after spinal surgery."

Education

Oliver Hyams – "Highly regarded practitioner with a practice that spans the full spectrum of education law. He is an expert in employment matters and is frequently instructed in judicial reviews and appeals. "He provides incisive, clear and timely advice, and has proved himself to be of invaluable assistance to the team." He acted in *Lam v St Mary's School Cambridge*; a case concerning a claim of breach of contract relating to the failure of the school to provide an adequate duty of care to a new pupil."

Employment

Devereux is ranked as a leading set – "A strong set with experts who handle all aspects of employment law. Members of the team are regularly instructed in complex and high-profile cases involving issues as diverse as TUPE, equal pay and whistle-blowing. Its client list is broad and includes trade unions, large companies and public sector bodies. "The clerks are very good. They are approachable and commercial, and there are never any issues with double booking." "They are client-friendly, personable and approachable. The barristers' rates are good too." Vince Plant is chambers director."

Timothy Brennan QC – "Singled out for his unique blend of employment and tax expertise, he undertakes a large volume of advisory work for City-based employers. "He has good technical knowledge which he can practically apply to the day-to-day down-in-the-gutter activity clients are involved in." "He is the person you think about for tax crossover cases."

Bruce Carr QC – "A pre-eminent employment and discrimination expert who has unrivalled experience and expertise on issues relating to industrial relations. He is highly sought after for his union expertise, and has handled significant work for employers in high-profile cases. He is singled out for his courtroom presence and is widely viewed as one of the leading advocates in the business. "He is innovative and has clever ideas about how to tactically deal with situations." "Unflappable, he has a very cool head, and is very calm and authoritative." "Terrier-like, he's a difficult opponent in court but totally charming outside of it." Acted for Lloyds in defending a multi-claimant indirect discrimination and equal pay claim relating to an attempt to harmonise terms and conditions after the bank's acquisition of HBOS."

Peter Edwards – "A skilled personal injury and employment specialist who is part of a select group of barristers singled out for cases that straddle the two areas. He is also renowned for his experience in trade union issues, and he regularly represents some of the largest unions in their most critical employment issues. "Engaging, energetic and hard-working, he is adept at marshalling huge amounts of information very quickly." "He gets right to the heart of the issue, explains things very quickly and clearly, and comes down on one side or the other." Advised TFL on an appeal against an earlier decision in the EAT, centring on the test for a postponement application owing to ill health."

Andrew Burns – "Considered the go-to junior barrister for industrial relations advice and litigation. He focuses on advising employers and regularly works for household-name companies with large unionised workforces. "He's very clever and at the same time great with clients." "He's the go-to person for industrial relations advice." Acted in *Allen v TRW systems*, a case concerning enhanced redundancy payments due to the implicit inclusion of redundancy policy into an employment contract."

Akash Nawbatt – "Comes highly praised for his tactical acumen and is recommended for particularly difficult cases. He is highly rated for his work across the board, and has notable recent experience in the High Court advising on multimillion-pound breach of contract claims as well as team moves."

Sophie Belgrove – “A well-seasoned litigator and a good all-rounder who regularly advises on all aspects of employment and discrimination law. She is praised for her innovation and noted for her ability to think outside the box. She specialises in advising clients in the financial services sector. "She is a very strong advocate who is rightfully highly regarded." Advised Laing O'Rourke in a series of cases relating to a high-value breach of contract claim where a former employee claimed commission payments and an equity stake in the company.”

Alice Mayhew – “Has a diverse employment practice, and regularly appears in the High Court, at appellate level and before the Employment Tribunal. She regularly works with market-leading private practice firms as well as in-house teams from large companies. "Very good with witnesses, she puts them at ease and speaks to them on their level." Advised the GMB union in relation to proposed changes to terms and conditions by Brighton and Hove City Council and on threatened strike action by cleaning staff.”

Lucinda Harris – “Has a thriving employment practice and is considered by one impressed interviewee to be one of the better barristers the set has to offer. She is particularly adept at advising on discrimination cases and has written widely on the subject. Her clients include market-leading firms and brand-name multinationals. "She's brilliant, her written work is very good and she is personable and good with clients." Advised IAG and BA on the defence of a claim brought by pilots who argued there had been a TUPE transfer to BA following its disposal of Baby BMI to IAG.”

Laura Bell – “Has a wide-ranging employment practice and regularly advises on everything from whistle-blowing to breach of contract. She is known as a fearless litigator who is adept at thinking on her feet. She is also praised for putting clients at ease, with her client-friendly manner making her a trusted adviser. "I really think cross-examination is one of her strengths because she can be very tenacious.””

Talia Barsam – “An excellent employment junior recommended for her tough cross-examination and ease with witnesses. She has impressed with her work on high-value and complex discrimination claims, and has noted expertise in disability discrimination. "She is good under pressure, calm under fire and great to work with." Advised the respondent in *Lefebvre v British Airways*, a disability discrimination claim lodged by a member of cabin crew with obsessive compulsive disorder.””

Thomas Cordrey – “An up-and-coming employment barrister with complementary expertise in personal injury and commercial law. He acts at all levels, and has undertaken significant work in the High Court and EAT. "He's very gentle, which is good with clients." "He is very clear about his analysis of things, and when necessary he will go away and sift evidence. He's very organised in his approach." Advised the appellant in *Northbert Dentressangle v Hutton*, a case concerning the limitation period for bringing an unfair dismissal claim.”

Christopher Stone – “Has a growing reputation for the strength of his employment practice. Peers praise his handling of complicated multi-week whistle-blowing claims, and clients note his impressive and robust advocacy. He is a barrister of choice for many of the leading employment solicitors. "He is completely unflappable and does not feel the pressure at all, even when he's handling complicated matters. His legal knowledge is second to none and he's regularly filling in the judges on points of law they may have missed." "Good with clients, he's more commercial than the average barrister." Acted for the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham in defending a whistle-blowing and unfair discrimination claim.”

Kate Balmer – “A baby junior who is widely considered to be able well beyond her years of call. She has standout expertise on the crossover between employment and tax."Absolutely fantastic and very tenacious in cross-examination." "She produces Rolls-Royce witness statements, has a very nice style with witnesses and judges, and always delivers.””

Financial Crime

Jonathan Fisher QC – “Defends and prosecutes serious fraud cases. He has a significant advisory practice. "He is a very fine academic and a very good practitioner." "He's very knowledgeable and

very responsive to queries, and provides good strategic advice based on a solid understanding of the law. He is an excellent advocate and an excellent public speaker." Represented an RBS trader in a complex tax evasion investigation."

Financial Services

Jonathan Fisher QC – "Has a strong focus on the overlap of civil and criminal law. He is frequently instructed on market abuse, money laundering and market disclosure cases. "He's cerebral, thorough, very industrious and very good on the black letter of the law. He really knows his stuff and he's completely immersed in the financial services world." Acted for the defendant in *FCA v Mineworld (AKA Da Vinci)*, resisting claims by the regulator that the defendant's high-frequency trading techniques should be seen as market abuse."

Health & Safety

Stephen Killalea QC – "Has a background in criminal law and is an expert in risk assessment. He specialises in complex cases, including those relating to corporate manslaughter and serious injury. "He is particularly good at sorting the wood from the trees." "He provides pragmatic advice, and is able to immediately engage with the client." Advised a defendant in a case concerning a gas cylinder which exploded while being filled with nitrogen gas, causing the accidental death of an employee, major injury to a member of the public and extensive property damage."

Insurance

Devereux is ranked as a leading set – "The set represents clients at the very highest levels in insurance work, and handles cases right up to the Supreme Court. A number of members of the set also edit key insurance law texts, displaying their position at the cutting edge of legal thought in the area. Commentators are impressed by the strength of the silks and by the quality of the work that they take on."

Colin Edelman QC – "Universally seen as the leading silk for insurance and reinsurance matters, he has appeared in a whole host of leading cases, and has also handled a number of arbitrations and mediations. He takes on the very largest and most high-profile matters that come before the English courts. "Incredibly sharp and someone with an excellent bedside manner." "At the top of his game; he is one of the very best." Succeeded in the Supreme Court in *Teal v W R Berkley*."

Richard Harrison – "Maintains a highly focused insurance and reinsurance practice, and is adept at handling the more technical cases. His work is increasingly international in scope, and he receives instructions directly from Hong Kong, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands, among a number of countries and territories. "He's an exceptionally charming individual. He backs that up with also having a really impressive grasp of the issues and the ability to think laterally about the problems one encounters." Represents an insured professional trustee who is facing a claim in excess of £100 million brought by a number of beneficiaries of the Jack Walker Trust who allege mismanagement of the trust's assets."

Alison Padfield – "A truly outstanding junior who has deep insurance knowledge and is frequently led by some of the top silks at the Bar. She is equally at home in the courtroom or in arbitration. "She writes the textbook, is in a lot of the cases and knows everything there is to know about insurance." Acted for Adana in a multimillion-pound coverage dispute in the Commercial Court against Aspen Insurance following the collapse of a crane in Liverpool."

Andrew Burns – "Solid litigator who is building a strong practice following his high-profile appearance in the Supreme Court in the much-publicised Employers' Liability Policy Trigger litigation. He has recently been instructed on reinsurance aggregation, insurance fraud and brokers' D&O claims. "He's down to earth and personable, gets on with people and is unfazed by difficult issues." Acted for the insured against Aviva in handling a property insurance claim that led to a multimillion-pound dispute centred on whether the reinsurers were liable."

International Arbitration: Arbitrators (London)

Colin Edelman QC – “Has a broad commercial practice and a particularly strong reputation for insurance-related matters. He has been appointed as arbitrator for matters concerning the pharmaceuticals industry, and has handled cases arising from natural disasters, as well as disputes relating to questions of professional liability. "He is incredibly good. He has fantastic insurance credentials, and is very straightforward as an arbitrator." "He is the kingpin of the insurance and reinsurance arbitration world.””

International Arbitration: General Commercial & Insurance (London)

Colin Edelman QC – “Handles international arbitration as both counsel and arbitrator. His expertise in insurance-related matters has earned him engagements on major disputes, including those concerning claims brought against reinsurers and issues arising from natural disasters. "He really is a very, very well-established person in the field as both counsel and arbitrator." "He is absolutely fantastic. It is great to work with him.””

Personal Injury

Devereux is ranked as a leading set – “This prominent set is a good port of call for those with contentious brain and spinal injury-related claims, and it has barristers who are experienced at handling cases concerning injuries sustained by UK nationals abroad. Other niche areas of expertise include CICA, psychiatric injury and amputation cases. Commentators state: "The set has barristers who are prepared to fight really difficult cases and they have a number of specialists in brain injury. All the Devereux people we work with are committed to getting the best possible result for clients and they bring with them a wealth of experience." "The clerks are brilliant. There is always someone available and they respond immediately." Vince Plant is the chambers director.”

Robert Glancy QC – “Has formidable expertise and handles a range of accident claims relating to severe head, back and other near-fatal injuries. He also regularly acts on CICA claims and has been instrumental in the acquisition of damages for tunnel miners. "His knowledge of the law is superb and he is particularly good at advocacy in the Court of Appeal." "He is modest and very cool under pressure." Acted in a complex CICA claim that had arisen from a collision between a lorry and another vehicle that caused a fatality.”

Stephen Killalea QC – “Identified by instructing solicitors and peers as an astute neurotrauma and spinal injury silk. He is particularly sought after for his careful and measured approach to cases involving children. "He's got very good judgement, is well prepared, and has an easy and relaxed manner with clients and opponents alike. He gets the job done in the right way - by being combative but not aggressive." Instructed in a seminal cross-border motor claim involving the TBI of a motorcyclist in Germany.”

Robert Weir QC – “A highly respected catastrophic injury and disease silk who is acknowledged as a true expert in cases involving severe head and back injuries and amputations. He also has unique experience in foreign PI cases, and has worked on matters where the injury occurred in France or Australia. "He has had some absolutely fantastic results recently with novel cases. He is always trying to look at new angles to cases and come up with ingenious new arguments." "He is really razor-sharp in his analysis, cuts to the chase and doesn't pontificate." Represented a mesothelioma sufferer who had contracted the disease because she had lived near an asbestos factory. The case was settled shortly before it was due to be heard at the High Court.”

Bruce Silvester – “Devotes much of his time to individual and group litigation concerning health and safety and catastrophic injury. He boasts a flourishing High Court practice and acts for both defendants and claimants. "He is a phenomenally hard worker. Every point is taken, and he doesn't miss anything." "His advocacy is superb, and he is regularly up against silks, often coming out on top." Acted as counsel in a high-value accident claim involving a child with serious neurological damage, where the damage could not be assessed properly until adulthood.”

Colin Mendoza – “A personal injury junior whose sophisticated understanding of medicine enables him to deal with cases involving severe, often life-changing back and head injuries, as well as injuries involving the loss of major organs. He is also a specialist in amputation and chronic pain syndrome matters. "He's very, very hard-working and doesn't shirk the difficulties in a case." Advised a claimant who, following an accident at work, had developed a chronic pain condition that meant he was severely debilitated.”

Peter Edwards – “Has a practice strong in catastrophic injury, industrial disease and psychiatric injury cases. He regularly handles cases involving severe injuries to the spine, brain damage and fatalities. "He is energetic, hard-working and adept at marshalling huge amounts of information very quickly. He is also a very engaging guy who can make quite boring things lift off the page, so that a lay person, judge or client can see how they work." Worked on behalf of a claimant who was paralysed and severely brain damaged following an RTA in the Vatican.”

Richard Cartwright – “An eminent junior with a considerable personal injury practice that covers mostly high-end head and back injuries incurred on the roads and highways. His background in finance means he is good at structuring schedules of loss and other damages work. "He is very good on detail and up to date on all developments in the law." "He engages well with clients and tends to be more innovative than other barristers." Managed to obtain a £2.1 million settlement for a neurologically injured claimant who suffers from speech deficit and dysarthria following an RTA.”

Robert Hunter – “A well-regarded large loss/severe injury practitioner who excels in accidents that involve spinal trauma, complex regional pain or amputations. He also undertakes CICA claims and is mainly instructed by the leading personal injury firms. "His opinions are really thorough and detailed, and he thinks about all the issues, not just the ones you have identified for him to consider." "He is also very good with clients, works really hard, and is very thorough and well prepared." Acted for the claimant in a high-value motor claim where catastrophic spinal damage was sustained.”

POCA Work & Asset Forfeiture (all circuits)

Jonathan Fisher QC – “Handles confiscation and civil recovery proceedings in the commercial, finance and tax context. He is frequently instructed in relation to multimillion-pound frauds. "He's academically very highly regarded and respected by all jurisdictions, including appellate courts." "Clear and consistent in his advice, he's able to see the bigger picture.””

Professional Negligence

Colin Edelman QC – “Has a significant professional negligence practice, and demonstrates expertise in sensitive solicitors' negligence cases and insurance coverage disputes. "He is the first person we go to with tricky points because of the depth of his expertise. He's very good at distilling information and getting to the crux of the matter." "He is very down to earth and straightforward and firm in his advice.””

Tax

Devereux is ranked as a leading set – “Devereux Chambers is a set that "is making a big play for tax work." It has had a good footing in the market for some time, but has, of late, made a real effort to woo the major accountancy firms and build up a strong tax team through lateral hires. It is now seen as being a real force in the market, and is noted for having members who provide "fantastic technical and strategic tax advice." The individuals here are especially good at representing HMRC, some of them having been former Standing Counsel to the Revenue. Client Service: Chambers director Vince Plant leads "a forward-thinking, modern set.””

Timothy Brennan QC – “Regularly represents the interests of taxpayers and the Revenue in a broad selection of tax disputes. He acts in cases concerning all taxes, but he is especially active in corporation tax, capital gains tax, National Insurance and income tax matters. "He is great at public law and great for judicial review. He understands the Revenue very well and is a marvellous cross-

examiner." He represented Next Distribution in a capital allowances case centring on the tax status of import and distribution warehouses."

Jonathan Fisher QC – "An established expert in tax investigations concerning avoidance and fraud, who represents clients before the tax tribunals and criminal courts. He acts for the taxpayer and the Revenue. "His years as standing counsel to the Revenue at the Old Bailey have given him unparalleled insight into the mind of CPS case workers." He advised a group of RBS bankers in relation to an accusation by HMRC that they evaded tax by investing in film schemes."

Felicity Cullen QC – "Regularly provides advice on sophisticated City transactions, especially those involving private companies and businesses. In addition, she has an active contentious practice acting for taxpayers and HMRC in notable cases. "She is very bright and diligent, but also very practical. She is also very good at taking clients with her - they have great confidence in her and she will help them navigate the issues." She provided advice to Hong Kong clients wishing to invest in the Greenwich Peninsula property development scheme."

Aparna Nathan – "Routinely assists the Revenue in tax disputes. Her practice also includes advisory work, especially in relation to tax planning for non-domiciliaries and high net worth individuals. "She is technically good and very practical in her approach. She is very good to work with." Acted for HMRC in a challenge made against a structured avoidance scheme involving loans on depreciating currencies."

Jolyon Maugham – "His practice is focused on litigation relating to direct and indirect tax. He often acts for clients involved in cases concerning schemes, intangible property, film financing and employment tax. "He has a first-class brain and an impressive ability to explain complex tax law in simple terms." He represented the taxpayer in the Icebreaker litigation concerning £300 million of unpaid income tax owed by 500 investors, including members of Take That."

Akash Nawbatt – "Acts for taxpayers and the Revenue at all levels of the court system. His tax work is focused on cases relating to employment, and typically involves questions of remuneration and the taxation of employees. "He has a very sharp, agile intellect and is very good strategically. He is also very user-friendly and affable." He acted for the Revenue in a significant case before the First-tier Tax Tribunal concerning group loss taxation. "

Marika Lemos – "Has a wide-ranging practice, but is particularly noted for her advice on offshore tax planning issues, particularly those involving trusts, and tax issues relating to pensions. Also a noted expert on tax avoidance schemes and tax as it interacts with human rights law. "Very, very good and thorough." She acted in a case involving EU elements considering whether exit charges on a migration of a settlement impede EC treaty freedoms."

Christopher Stone – "Regularly represents the Revenue and is increasingly acting for taxpayers in a variety of tax cases. Areas of expertise include employment-related tax issues, particularly those concerning employment status. "He is very diligent and highly committed. He will stay up all night if you need him to. He has very good judgement and you can rely on any research he does." He represented HMRC before the Upper Tribunal in a case considering the tax deductibility of travel expenses for doctors working in private practice."

Tax: Private Client

Aparna Nathan – "Has a strong advisory practice attending to the needs of high net worth individuals, as well as those who require assistance in matters concerning domicile status. "She's extremely technically able and can deliver the advice in an understandable way."

Marika Lemos – "Acts for private clients in both an advisory and litigation capacity. Her matters often include a broad range of issues including, but not limited to, the structuring of onshore and offshore trusts, inheritance relief, pension planning and questions of client domicile status. "She continues to really impress, especially on the tax/pensions crossover - she really understands how they fit

together." She was involved in a protracted case concerning Business Assets Taper Relief that recently settled."

Telecommunications

Graham Read QC – "Has extensive experience of acting in both regulatory and commercial disputes. He is lauded for his long-standing representation of major client BT in high-profile cases. "A tremendously commercial litigator." "He's a brutal cross-examiner, who is really, really tough." Acted as lead counsel for BT in a long-running case looking at Ofcom's decision that the company had overcharged for Ethernet services by more than £150 million."

Travel: International Personal Injury

Devereux is ranked as a leading set – "Members of Devereux act on a wide range of travel law matters, from food poisoning cases to claims arising out of fatalities. Its members appear for single and multiparty claimants as well as defendant travel agents, tour operators and insurers, and are noted for their expertise in catastrophic injury claims and applicable law matters. Client service: Vince Plant leads a team that is "excellent," "very efficient" and "very responsive.""

Stephen Killalea QC – "Handles catastrophic injury abroad matters for claimants. He demonstrates particular expertise in cases concerning brain and spinal damage. "He's got very good judgement, is well prepared and has an easy and relaxed manner with clients and opponents alike." "He's very clear and precise, and obviously knows his stuff inside out." Represented Holly Raper, who sustained catastrophic injuries in a quad bike accident in Tasmania."

Robert Weir QC – "Advises claimants and defendants on high-profile accident abroad cases. He is noted for his capabilities in cases concerning complex questions of jurisdiction and applicable laws. "He is a heavyweight silk - his advocacy is outstanding and his written arguments are so clear." "He is razor-sharp in his analysis; he sees the issues and has a clear and forceful way of presenting issues in court." Acted for the claimant in the landmark case of *Wall v Mutuelle de Poitiers Assurances*, which concerned the effect of French law on accidents abroad in light of Rome II."

Bruce Silvester – "Acts for claimants and defendants in cross-border personal injury litigation. He is notably strong in cases involving multiple claimants and issues arising from the Athens Convention. "He's very forensic, good with experts, and demonstrates good attention to detail." "Pretty fearsome to come up against, he doesn't mince his words, is very thorough and is incredibly tenacious." Acted for 205 claimants who fell ill during their stay on the 'Thomson Dream' cruise ship."

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.