

## *Chambers UK Edition 2020*

Leading set  
Leading silks  
Leading juniors

Members of Devereux received a total of 58 individual listings across 14 practice areas in Chambers UK 2020 edition, released on 09 October 2019. We have an increased set ranking for **Tax (2)** and have retained the same ranking for **Employment (2)**, **Personal Injury (2)**, **Travel: International Personal Injury (2)**, **Clinical Negligence (5)**, **Tax (Private Client) (2)**, and **Telecommunications (2)** and **Insurance (4)**.

There are 7 increased individual rankings, 8 new individual rankings, and **4 star silks** (in Employment, Insurance, International Arbitration (Arbitrators), Personal Injury and Travel: International Personal Injury).

### **Clinical Negligence** – Ranked as a Leading Set – Band **5**

**Devereux** is noted for its strong representation of claimants and defendants in complex clinical negligence cases, counting several defendant NHS trusts and health authorities, as well as insurers, doctors and individual healthcare professionals, among its enviable client list. Members are particularly well regarded for their representation of claimants in high-value birth trauma, wrongful birth, brain injury and cerebral palsy claims, and are adept at assessing quantum and liability. Instructing solicitors praise the chambers as "a go-to set for complex, high-value clinical negligence work," adding that "the barristers are all very approachable, great with clients and excellent at handling fatal claims."

**Client service:** *"The clerks are exceptionally good and very responsive. The chambers director, Vince Plant, is very efficient." "The clerks are excellent and very helpful."*

- **Robert Glancy QC** – Leading Silk Band 1

"An exceptional advocate who has a wealth of knowledge. He's also very strong in negotiations and has a very good way of dealing with clients and their complex needs and situations."

- **Robert Weir QC** – Leading Silk Band 1

"He's extremely bright, has great analytical skills and is adept at finding a way through complex evidence. He is also excellent in strategic planning and ensuring the best possible outcome for the client." "Weir is a razor-sharp advocate."

- **Richard Cartwright** – Leading Junior Band 1

"He's very empathetic with clients in difficult circumstances and delivers clear advice." "He is very tenacious and a formidable negotiator in settlement meetings. He achieves fantastic results."

### **Commercial Dispute Resolution**

- **Harriet Fear Davies** – Leading Junior Band 5

"Incredibly well organised and very sensible, she drafts beautifully and has creativity and guile that you don't see often." "She seamlessly fits into a team, and she's really prepared to roll up her sleeves and get stuck in."

### **Employment** – Ranked as a Leading Set – Band 2

**Devereux** offers a strong team of barristers who have expertise across a variety of employment matters. The set is noted for its strength in industrial relations matters, having acted in a number of precedent-setting cases and appearing at all levels of the judicial system. Further expertise is displayed in matters relating to worker status, restrictive covenants and whistle-blowing, and the set is able to draw on its significant tax expertise to advise at the intersection between tax and employment law

#### **Client service:**

"The clerking team, led by the impressive Vince Plant, is friendly and very responsive. Vince Plant, Chris Downes and James Hudson know their set inside out and make a point

of getting to know their clients to find the right fit for your case." "The clerks are commercial and pragmatic and recognise the value of building a long-term relationship."

- **Timothy Brennan QC** – Leading Silk Band **4**  
"He is technically gifted and provides clear strategic recommendations to the client."  
"A highly experienced barrister with an impressively detailed understanding of the national minimum wage legislation."
- **Bruce Carr QC** – Leading Silk **Star Individual**  
"A born advocate who does miracles in the courtroom. He's a brilliant strategist, an excellent tactician and truly a game-changer in the proceedings." "An industrial relations titan and the first choice for complex union-related matters."
- **Andrew Burns QC** – Leading Silk Band **3**  
"Exceptional counsel: very, very smart, a terrific advocate and a great all-rounder."  
"A very bright, pragmatic and able lawyer with great attention to detail."
- **Akash Nawbatt QC** – Leading Silk Band **3**  
"Frighteningly smart, and has an understated quality that works amazingly well with clients." "A highly persuasive advocate."
- **Peter Edwards** – Leading Junior Band **4**  
"An excellent advocate who always provides sound and pragmatic advice based on his deep knowledge of the law." "He is very hard-working and has a real commitment to getting the best for the client."
- **Laura Bell** – Leading Junior **4**  
"Really impressive and able to handle a wide range of work." "Calm under pressure, clear and commercial in her advice, very personable and highly intelligent."
- **Alice Mayhew** – Leading Junior Band **3**  
"Her cross-examination is a masterclass and clients love her. She's so user-friendly while being utterly focused and totally fearless." "She's technically strong and takes

a sensible and pragmatic approach to proceedings."

- **Talia Barsam** – Leading Junior Band **3**  
"Utterly amazing on discrimination cases. A fierce intellect with the advocacy skills to match." "Very client-friendly and really gets to grips with the nuances of the case."
- **Thomas Cordrey** – Leading Junior Band **5**  
"Immaculate preparation and excellent advocacy." "He is very calm, measured and reassuring to work with."
- **Christopher Stone** – Leading Junior **4**  
"Gets everything done to such a high standard, has great judgement and is someone you can really trust on a difficult question of law." "An excellent advocate who is unflappable under pressure and always brilliantly prepared."
- **Lucinda Harris** – Leading Junior Band **5**  
"Very personable and possesses a sharp intellect." "A very calm barrister who is really strong analytically."
- **Alice Carse** – Leading Junior Band **5**  
"Her advocacy is a delight to watch: intelligent, robust and thorough." "She has incredible gravitas."
- **Kate Balmer** – Leading Junior Band **5**  
"A very clear-sighted barrister who is able to see through to the crux of really complex matters."
- **Georgina Hirsch** – Leading Junior Band **5**  
"A very, very knowledgeable employment barrister and a clear and effective advocate." "She is very sensible and thorough; she's delightful to work with and has a wealth of practical experience."

## **Insurance** – Ranked as a Leading Set – Band 4

**Devereux** has notable expertise in both insurance and reinsurance disputes, with one commentator highlighting the set's "very strong insurance practice." Members are recognised for their involvement in high-quality insurance cases, including litigation in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal. The set also demonstrates considerable experience in international arbitration. Complex coverage disputes are a mainstay of the set, particularly those which relate to war risk, professional indemnity and property damage claims.

**Client service:** Vince Plant is chambers director and Glenn Billenness is the senior practice manager.

- **Colin Edelman QC** – Leading Silk **Star Individual**  
"If you have a case going to the Supreme Court, you get Colin in." "There's nobody near him." "He is unrivalled in his knowledge and experience."
- **Andrew Burns QC** – Leading Silk Band 4  
"A very formidable opponent." "A strong advocate."
- **Richard Harrison** – Leading Junior Band 2  
"He has tremendous legal common sense and a thorough grasp of the detail without losing the bigger picture." "An excellent advocate."

## **International Arbitration (arbitrators)**

- **Colin Edelman QC** – Leading Silk Band **Star Individual**  
"Phenomenally bright and quick off the mark with correspondence." "A fantastic arbitrator."

## **International Arbitration (counsel)**

- **Colin Edelman QC** – Leading Silk Band 2  
Very innovative and is really willing to make a bold call." "His advocacy is immense."

## **Personal Injury** – Ranked as a Leading Set – Band **2**

A highly regarded set in the personal injury market housing significant expertise in complex and high-value catastrophic injury claims. Additional areas of strength for the set include amputation and psychiatric claims, as well as industrial disease matters. Its members are also noted for their adept handling of cases involving complex jurisdictional issues and group actions. The set was recently involved in *Dryden v Johnson Matthey*, a high-profile case heard in the Supreme Court concerning claimants who had been exposed to chemicals but has no symptoms.

**Client service:** "The clerks are very professional and immediately responsive." Chambers director Vince Plant heads the clerking team.

- **Robert Glancy QC** – Leading Silk Band **1**  
"A very experienced leader who has seen and done it all in this area of law." "He's very analytical, good on complex quantum issues and very good with families. He is a real people person."
- **Stephen Killalea QC** – Leading Silk Band **1**  
"A consummate advocate who presents complex arguments in simple terms." "He has huge experience in personal injury matters and a very good manner with clients, which is important when dealing with very sensitive matters. He's approachable, reacts swiftly to issues and is very easy to work with."
- **Robert Weir QC** – Leading Silk **Star Individual**  
"He's quite simply the best in the business for complex, high-value personal injury work." "He is a brilliant technical lawyer and probably the best personal injury barrister out there." "He's head and shoulders above the rest when dealing with cases involving complex and technical legal arguments."
- **Bruce Silvester** – Leading Junior Band **1**  
"He has a very keen legal mind." "An excellent trial advocate."

- **Colin Mendoza** – Leading Junior Band **2**  
"A very strong negotiator."
- **Peter Edwards** – Leading Junior Band **3**  
"He is very, very thorough and very hard-working. He's hands-on and will go the extra mile for his clients."
- **Richard Cartwright** – Leading Junior Band **3**  
"He is really good on calculations. He also has a lovely manner with families and young children."
- **Robert Hunter** – Leading Junior Band **2**  
"An extremely talented and personable advocate with great client skills and an eye for detail."

### **Personal Injury: Industrial Disease**

- **Robert Weir QC** – **Leading Silk**  
"A first-rate advocate and tactician."

### **Professional Negligence**

- **Colin Edelman QC** – Leading Silk Band **1**  
"Fantastically knowledgeable; he's really outstandingly brilliant."

### **Tax (Private Client)** – Ranked as a Leading Set – Band **2**

**Devereux** is commended for its "strong knowledge and application of tax legislation and case law." The set's team of silks and juniors is sought after by high net worth individuals, HMRC and private clients to assist with a wide variety of matters. Work handled includes cases relating to residence and domicile status, employee remuneration, general estate planning, gifts and deeds of variation, and tax-related professional negligence claims, among others.

**Client service:** "All the clerks are quietly efficient." Vince Plant is the chambers director.

- **Felicity Cullen QC** – Leading Silk Band **2**  
"Incredibly able and has great technical knowledge. She is very good at answering the questions you didn't ask but should have done."
- **Akash Nawbatt QC** – Leading Silk Band **2**  
"A very personable advocate who manages to calm the client down. His analysis of cases is impressive and his advice is extremely clear and helpful." "He's got a great mind. His ego never gets in the way and he's a pleasure to work with."
- **Aparna Nathan QC** – Leading Silk Band **New silk**  
"Extremely technical, good at explaining complex things very clearly, and very easy to get on with."
- **Barrie Akin** – Leading Junior Band **3**  
"Very knowledgeable and demonstrates a quick understanding of the subject matter as well as the overriding objectives of the client. He's happy to debate points of law and is not rigid in his views."
- **Marika Lemos** – Leading Junior Band **2**  
"She is strong both in terms of her analysis and her presentation of arguments."  
"Her written work is very good and easy to understand."
- **Christopher Stone** – Leading Junior Band **3**  
"He gets everything done to such a high standard, has great judgement, and is someone you can really trust on a difficult question."

**Tax** – Ranked as a Leading Set – Band **2**

**Devereux** is well-known set in the tax sector that has an impressive bench of practitioners offering advisory and litigation experience across a wide range of matters. Members act for and against the Revenue and are proficient in cases concerning employment taxes, corporation tax, diverted profits tax and tax schemes. Recent matters include *Whyte v HMRC*, a capital gains and income tax appeal, and *Professional Game Match Officials Ltd v HMRC*, which dealt with the tax treatment and employment status of football referees.



**Client service:** "The clerks are great; they're an easy set with which to engage." "It is an extraordinarily strong set. The chambers director Vince Plant is extremely able and very approachable."

- **Timothy Brennan QC** – Leading Silk Band **2**  
"Has a highly commercial outlook and encyclopaedic knowledge of tax law." "He's an excellent advocate of great intellectual ability."
- **Felicity Cullen QC** – Leading Silk Band **1**  
"Very thorough – she has both breadth and depth of expertise and super client-handling skills." "She brings vast experience to bear and has strong strategic abilities."
- **Jolyon Maugham QC** – Leading Silk Band **3**  
"He's very good at standing up for his client and getting the best deal possible."
- **Akash Nawbatt QC** – Leading Silk Band **2**  
"Great and his attention to detail is excellent." "He's excellent not only in technical tax matters but also where there's a judicial review piece of litigation which engages public law."
- **Aparna Nathan QC** – Leading Silk Band **New Silk**  
"Excellent and offers great insight into a case." "She is going to be very good as a silk."
- **Barrie Akin** – Leading Junior Band **3**  
"Very good at being able to look at the pragmatic and the accounting side of tax advice as well as the legal side."
- **Rebecca Murray** – Leading Junior Band **2**  
"She is an outstanding junior as she is highly intelligent, grasps the law well and is clear and concise in her advice."
- **Marika Lemos** – Leading Junior Band **2**  
"Technically very able and incredibly thorough." "She displays acute attention to

detail and is a strategic thinker."

- **Christopher Stone** – Leading Junior Band **3**

"Grasps issues quickly and knows how to manage the client's objectives."

- **Kate Balmer** – Leading Junior Band **3**

A pleasant and approachable barrister who can be quite ferocious in court when it's justified."

- **Georgia Hicks** – Leading Junior Band **Up and coming**

"She is adept at getting her head around complex multifaceted claims and in distilling the issues in a case."

### **Telecommunications** – Ranked as a Leading Set – Band **2**

Members of chambers handle a broad range of telecoms cases, encompassing both commercial and regulatory matters. They have been involved in some of the first test cases relating to the updated Electronic Communications Code (ECC), representing a number of the UK's most prominent telecoms operators. The set is also a strong choice for telecoms companies requiring representation in commercial litigation.

**Client service:** "In addition to us just providing them with instructions, the barristers have directly provided training to our team. They have gone the extra mile." The clerking team, headed by Vince Plant, is "excellent: the clerks are always attentive, they respond quickly and they are available when needed."

- **Graham Read QC** – Leading Silk Band **1**

"His advice is clear and credible; he sees things in the round." "Graham Read has a very impressive and deep understanding of the telecoms industry and the surrounding legislation, and is able to absorb large quantities of information very quickly."

- **Shaen Catherwood** – Leading Junior Band **3**

"He takes into account the commercial considerations of the clients and always offers practical, pragmatic options, as well as good knowledge of the black letter law." "He has a

calm view, is very good with clients and is very likeable and reasonable."

- **Georgina Hirsch** – Leading Junior Band **3**

"She knows how to deal with clients very well; they like her and respect her for the fact that she works very hard. Georgina is commercial and sensible as well as a strong team player."

- **Rory Cochrane** – Leading Junior Band **Up and coming**

"He is helpful, amenable and clear in his advice." "Rory is very bright and has a very positive attitude. Clients really like him and he is both pleasant and charming."

### **Travel: International Personal Injury** – Ranked as a Leading Set – Band **2**

**Devereux** is noted for its expert handling of a wide range of international personal injury claims. Members act for both claimants and defendants, including travel agents, insurers and tour operators, in single and multiparty claims. Areas of expertise for the set include fatal and severe injury claims arising from plane crashes, RTAs, maritime incidents and skiing accidents. The team also offers expertise in holiday sickness claims, and is particularly well regarded for its handling of conflict of laws and jurisdiction disputes. Standout recent work for the set includes *X v Kuoni Travel*, a complex Court of Appeal case concerning the meaning of the Package Travel Regulations.

**Client service:** "The clerks are all very helpful, and practice manager Cyrus Biggs is excellent – he goes out of his way to accommodate clients." Vince Plant is the chambers director.

- **Stephen Killalea QC** – Leading Silk Band **3**

"He is absolutely fantastic with clients."

- **Robert Weir QC** – Leading Silk Band **Star Individual**

"The standout claimant silk in this area. He has a very impressive intellect and the ability to win very complex cases." "He is razor sharp in his analysis and has a wonderfully calm yet forceful manner in court."

- **Bruce Silvester** – Leading Junior Band **2**

"He is very thorough, has great attention to detail and is very easy to work with. He doesn't shy away from rolling up his sleeves and getting stuck into the case." "He is tenacious, thorough and a very good advocate. He builds a good rapport with clients and is assertive without being aggressive."

- **Robert Hunter** – Leading Junior Band **3**

"An extremely good advocate who is passionate, great with clients and demonstrates a good knowledge in this specialist field."

