

All 12 of our Queen's Counsel are listed as 'Leading Silks' in their respective fields, with 23 members ranked as 'Leading Juniors'

*Legal 500
Edition 2020*

Leading set
Leading silks
Leading juniors

Members of Devereux received a total of 74 individual listings across 16 practice areas in Legal 500's 2020 edition, published on 25th September 2019. We have retained rankings for **Employment (3), Insurance (4), IT & Telecoms (2), Personal Injury (2), Private Client Tax (2), and Tax (Corporate & VAT) (2)** and **Clinical Negligence (4)**. We have 9 new individual member rankings, and 10 increased individual member rankings.

The overview from *Legal 500* reads as follows:

The 'incredible' Devereux is 'a very strong set of personal injury barristers, with a broad range and level of experience' as well as having 'a strength in depth in the field of telecoms disputes', while, in the employment arena, solicitors note that 'there is a specialist in every complex area of law that you might need', and it continues to be 'a strong chambers in the tax market'. The set has 'significant figures both at silks and senior junior levels' who are 'approachable, pragmatic, technically sound, and understand the pressures that instructing solicitors are under'. 'It feels like you are working as a team; they do not undermine solicitors in front of clients or propose unreasonable deadlines.' Members are 'so client-friendly, unpretentious, and all-round excellent at their craft'.

In recent news, Aparna Nathan QC took silk in 2019 and Rebecca Murray joined from Temple Tax Chambers. Meanwhile, Oliver Hyams recently left to take up a full-time position as an employment judge.

The set's management is led by chambers director Vince Plant. The clerks are *'quick to respond, helpful, and always available when you need them'*. Practice managers Cyrus Biggs and Chris Downes are *'will track down a response from counsel if you can't and they feel like part of the team'*.

Clinical Negligence

Devereux ranked as Leading Set – Tier 4

Devereux has '*significant figures, both silks and senior juniors, who have proven strength and ability*' and provide '*excellent advice*' in relation to clinical negligence matters. Typical instructions include birth trauma, brain injury and cerebral palsy claims, which raise challenging issues in relation to liability, quantum and causation.

- **Robert Glancy QC** – Leading Silk Tier 2
“He has great eye for detail and brilliant client care skills.”
- **Robert Weir QC** – Leading Silk Tier 2
“He combines incredible legal intellect with outstanding advocacy and is excellent at foreseeing risk.”
- **Richard Cartwright** – Leading Junior Tier 1
“His ability to take a step back from a complex case and look at the issues in the round is impressive.”
- **Colin Mendoza** – Leading Junior Tier 4
“He has a great capacity for detailed analysis of a case, including anticipating risk”

Commercial Litigation

- **Colin Edelman QC** – Leading Silk Tier 4
“Well known across the insurance market”
- **Graham Read QC** – Leading Silk Tier 6
“An outstanding advocate who really takes his time to understand the issues.”

Education

- **Talia Barsam** – Leading Junior Tier 5
“An excellent advocate: professional and direct while also being supportive.”

Employment

Devereux ranked as a Leading Set – Tier 3

'Incredibly strong' Devereux is '*a great all-rounder set for employment litigation*' with '*strength in depth across their employment practice, including connected areas such as tax and national minimum wage issues*', according to instructing solicitors, who also note that chambers are considered a '*go-to set for trade union matters*'. **Bruce Carr QC** was involved in the landmark *Timis v Osipov*, in which the Court of Appeal, for the first time, found two individual

directors liable for whistleblowing-related detriment in a case following a disclosure by a company's CEO surrounding its oil business in Niger. Elsewhere, **Akash Nawbatt QC** acted for British Airways securing a High Court injunction to prevent pilots going on strike over the summer.

- **Timothy Brennan QC** – Leading Silk Tier **3**
“He is very knowledgeable and an expert in the national minimum wage area.”
- **Bruce Carr QC** – Leading Silk Tier **2**
“He is a first-class act with an assured manner and quiet confidence that leaves clients at ease and the other side scrabbling for a response.”
- **Andrew Burns QC** – Leading Silk Tier **3**
“Combines huge intellect with a commercial and strategic approach.”
- **Akash Nawbatt QC** – Leading Silk Tier **4**
“A future star of the Bar who is very good on detail, very hardworking, easy to deal with and great with clients.”
- **Peter Edwards** – Leading Junior Tier **3**
“His experience on trade union matters and related legal issues is invaluable.”
- **Alice Mayhew** – Leading Junior Tier **4**
“An exceptional senior junior who knows when to charm and when to strike, ensuring nothing less than the best result for clients.”
- **Laura Bell** – Leading Junior Tier **4**
“Calm under pressure, clear commercial advice, very personable and approachable as well as impressive during hearings.”
- **Talia Barsam** – Leading Junior Tier **3**
“Her manner with opposing counsel and the tribunal is calculated to give her client the best possible chance at any hearing.”
- **Thomas Cordrey** – Leading Junior Tier **3**
“Highly impressive up and coming junior counsel. He prepares thoroughly and is clear, positive and confident in the delivery of his advice.”
- **Christopher Stone** – Leading Junior Tier **3**
“An extremely impressive technical lawyer, who is an excellent choice for a respondent facing a discrimination claim or litigant in person.”
- **Alice Carse** – Leading Junior Tier **4**
“She has a confident manner which instils confidence in clients.”
- **Kate Balmer** – Leading Junior Tier **4**
“Extremely diligent and all over the detail as well as really good and patient in cross-examination.”
- **Georgina Hirsch** – Leading Junior Tier **4**
“A great in-depth commercial knowledge of the politics and legalities of trade union cases.”

- **Jesse Crozier** – Leading Junior Tier **4**
“Clients really like him for his strong cross-examination skills and excellently prepared skeleton arguments.”
- **Sebastian Purnell** – Leading Junior Tier **4**
“An excellent advocate who is calm and fair but nonetheless very robust, and is particularly good when dealing with litigants in person.”

IT and Telecoms (excluding regulatory)

- **Graham Read QC** – Leading Silk Tier **3**
“A true heavyweight of the telecoms Bar.”
- **Shaen Catherwood** – Leading Junior Tier **3**
“His technical knowledge of the telecoms sector is very impressive.”

IT and Telecoms – Telecoms (regulatory)

Devereux ranked as a Leading Set – Tier **2**

Attracting praise for delivering ‘concise, easy to understand and sensible advice’, the ‘excellent team’ at **Devereux** has been highlighted by clients as the ‘first choice for work relating to the new Telecoms Code’. In a recent work highlight, **Graham Read QC** was instructed by EE Limited and Hutchinson 3G Limited in a dispute against The Mayor and Burgesses of the London Borough of Islington for the rights, under the New Electronic Communication Code, to erect a replacement mast following redevelopment at a former mast site

- **Graham Read QC** – Leading Silk Tier **1**
“A true heavyweight of the telecoms Bar.”
- **Georgina Hirsch** – Leading Junior Tier **1**
“A very skilled advocate that is very experienced in proper, heavyweight telecoms work.”

Insurance and Reinsurance

Devereux ranked as Leading Set – Tier **4**

Devereux has an ‘excellent reputation for insurance and reinsurance disputes’ and is home to ‘several leading experts’. **Colin Edelman QC** led **Richard Harrison** in *UKI Insurance Limited v R&S Pilling*, a high-profile dispute which examines the UK’s compulsory motor insurance regime and whether this is enlarged by virtue of EU law. *Allianz Insurance Plc v Tonicstar* was a notable matter for **Andrew Burns QC**.

- **Colin Edelman QC** – Leading Silk Tier **1**
“*He is the greatest barrister at the insurance Bar.*”
- **Andrew Burns QC** – Leading Silk Tier **4**
“*He is a very talented advocate.*”
- **Richard Harrison** – Leading Junior Tier **2**
“*Extremely solutions-focused, a creative thinker, and has in-depth knowledge of insurance.*”

International Arbitration (arbitrators)

- **Colin Edelman QC** – Leading individuals Tier **1**
“*Top choice for major insurance disputes.*”

International Arbitration (counsel)

- **Colin Edelman QC** – Leading Silk Tier **2**
“*A leading barrister in the arbitration field.*”

Personal Injury

Devereux ranked as a Leading Set – Tier **2**

Devereux is 'a very strong personal injury set', according to instructing solicitors. Members demonstrate 'far-reaching knowledge of catastrophic injury cases' and have 'client care skills to match'. The set has 'unparalleled expertise in certain niche areas', including spinal cord and brain injury. Severe psychiatric injury and cases that raise challenging points of law are other areas of specialist interest for the set's barristers. **Robert Weir QC** represented the claimant in the Court of Appeal case *Bellman v Northampton Recruitment Ltd*, which held an employer vicariously liable for an assault committed by its managing director at a work party. **Robert Glancy QC** predominantly acts for brain damages and paralysed claimants, while **Bruce Silvester** has extensive experience in group litigation.

- **Robert Glancy QC** – Leading Silk Tier **2**
“*A silk that is head and shoulders above the rest in respect of technical legal issues.*”
- **Stephen Killalea QC** – Leading Silk Tier **2**
“*A gifted advocate who is excellent at cross-examination and always one step ahead.*”
- **Robert Weir QC** – Leading Silk Tier **1**
“*Unsurpassable advocate who communicates highly complex issues in a straightforward effortless way.*”

- **Bruce Silvester** – Leading Junior Tier **1**
“Extremely thorough in terms of preparation of the claim.”
- **Colin Mendoza** – Leading Junior Tier **3**
“Methodical, good with clients and extremely knowledgeable on all aspects of personal injury law.”
- **Peter Edwards** – Leading Junior Tier **4**
“Very diligent, client-friendly and commercial.”
- **Richard Cartwright** – Leading Junior Tier **2**
“Extremely good with figures and pleading of schedules.”
- **Stephen Cottrell** – Leading Junior Tier **5**
“He builds a great rapport with clients and takes a very sensible approach.”
- **Robert Hunter** – Leading Junior Tier **4**
“He is unfailingly well-prepared, delightful with his clients and forensic with the evidence”
- **Jonathan Butters** – Leading Junior Tier **5**
“He is extremely intelligent, articulate and understands highly complex issues.”

Professional Negligence

- **Colin Edelman QC** – Leading Silk Tier **1**
“He has an extraordinary ability present easy to understand solutions to complex problems.”
- **Richard Harrison** – Leading Junior Tier **4**
“He is very knowledgeable and a skilled advocate.”

Sport

- **Sebastian Purnell** – Leading junior Tier **4**
“The go-to junior for work on sports tax issues.”

Private client: personal tax

Devereux - Leading set - Tier **2**

Devereux has a thriving personal tax practice with a ‘great ethos and a really good mix of different types of technicians, both in terms of skill and personality’. **Aparna Nathan QC** acted as junior counsel for HMRC on the important issue of whether a taxpayer can force a loss of relief claim into the wrong year by simply calculating his own tax liability. Members of the set who are ‘top of their game’ regularly advise individuals, trustees, companies and other entities.

- **Felicity Cullen QC** – Leading silk Tier **2**
“A very strong technical lawyer who delivers her advice with charm.”

- **Aparna Nathan QC** – Leading Silk (2019 silk)
“A very incisive tax silk.”
- **Barrie Akin** – Leading Junior Tier 3
“Has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the tax acts.”
- **Marika Lemos** – Leading Junior Tier 1
“Cuts straight to the point and considers the issue from every angle – thorough and concise.”
- **Christopher Stone** – Leading Junior Tier 3
“Has unrivalled experience of advising and litigating on individual residence and domicile status.”

Tax: Corporate

Devereux ranked as a Leading Set – Tier 2

Members of Devereux are instructed in contentious and non-contentious direct and indirect tax cases. Able to draw on their wider expertise in employment law, commercial disputes, and professional negligence in cross-over matters, the set is able to assist clients in matters involving the minimum wage and employment status, as well as on the tax aspects of negligence claims against promoters of fraudulent tax schemes. Members have been involved in several standout cases, including HMRC v Higgins, where Christopher Stone appeared for the Revenue before the Upper Tribunal, in a case concerning the application of principal private residence relief from capital gains tax on the disposal of a main residence. In PGMOL v HMRC, a case in which Jolyon Maugham QC and Georgia Hicks appeared for the taxpayer, they successfully argued before the First-tier Tribunal that 'National Group' referees in major sporting leagues are self-employed. Felicity Cullen QC is a key name, with a client list that includes a number of owner-managed businesses. Aparna Nathan QC took silk in 2019.

- **Timothy Brennan QC** – Leading Silk Tier 3
“He has an ability to review detail and cut to the nub quickly and accurately.”
- **Felicity Cullen QC** – Leading Silk Tier 2
“Consistent practical commercial advice.”
- **Jolyon Maugham QC** – Leading Silk Tier 3
“A very clear and logical thinker and persuasive speaker.”
- **Akash Nawbatt QC** – Leading Silk Tier 2
“Particularly strong on issues of public law as applied in a tax context.”
- **Aparna Nathan QC** – Leading Silk (2019 silk)
“Extremely knowledgeable, very client focused and responsive, fantastic manner with lay clients.”

- **Barrie Akin** – Leading Junior Tier **2**
“He has a wide skillset that means he transverses many areas of expertise”
- **Rebecca Murray** – Leading Junior Tier **2**
“She is a real star in contentious matters.”
- **Marika Lemos** – Leading Junior Tier **2**
“She is extremely capable, very hardworking and sensitive to the needs of significant litigation.”
- **Kate Balmer** – Leading Junior Tier **2**
“Once she enters the room, she is a ferocious advocate.”
- **Christopher Stone** – Leading Junior Tier **2**
“He has a good, succinct writing style and is very user-friendly from the client’s perspective since he is always efficient and responsive.”

Tax: VAT

- **Felicity Cullen QC** – Leading Silk Tier **2**
“A genuine pleasure to work with and produces extremely thorough opinions and solutions.”
- **Barrie Akin** – Leading Junior Tier **2**
“He has a wide skillset that means he transverses many areas of expertise.”
- **Rebecca Murray** – Leading Junior Tier **3**
“She has a very keen mind, is incredibly hard-working and driven.”
- **Marika Lemos** – Leading Junior Tier **1**
“She is extremely capable, very hardworking and sensitive to the needs of significant litigation.”
- **Kate Balmer** – Leading Junior Tier **3**
“Once she enters the room, she is a ferocious advocate.”
- **Sebastian Purnell** – Leading Junior Tier **3**
“He is very client friendly and a real team player.”
- **Georgia Hicks** – Leading Junior Tier **2**
“She makes a real contribution to a case team and is highly rated as an advocate.”

Travel law (including jurisdictional issues)

- **Stephen Killalea QC** – Leading Silk Tier **2**
“Very strong client care and good instinct for tough cases.”
- **Robert Weir QC** – Leading Junior Tier **1**
“Very thoughtful and good on his feet.”

- **Bruce Silvester** – Leading Junior Tier **2**
“He is a very bright junior.”
- **Robert Hunter** – Leading Junior Tier **3**
“He is very responsive and provides prompt, detailed, considered advice.”

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