

All 12 of our Queen's Counsel are listed as 'Leading Silks' in their respective fields, with 27 members ranked as 'Leading Juniors'

*Legal 500  
Edition 2021*

Leading set  
Leading silks  
Leading juniors

Members of Devereux received a total of 79 individual listings across 16 practice areas in Legal 500's 2021 edition, published on 30th September 2020. We have retained rankings for **Employment (2), Insurance (4), IT & Telecoms (Regulatory) (2), IT & Telecoms (Excluding Regulatory) (3) Personal Injury, Industrial Disease and Insurance Fraud (2), Private Client: Personal Tax (2), Tax (Corporate) (2), Tax (VAT) (3) and Clinical Negligence (4)**. We have 9 new individual member rankings, and 6 increased individual member rankings.

The overview from *Legal 500* reads as follows:

*A multi-specialist set, Devereux has particular strength in the fields of employment, personal injury, and tax law fields. In recent news, Robert Glancy QC was appointed to the Premier League Judicial Panel and Joshua Carey, formerly of 2 Hare Court, joined the set's tax team.*

**Recent Testimonials about the set include:**

- *Devereux is the foremost premier set. Its Counsel and clerks are unrivalled.*
- *Devereux Chambers have a wealth of experience in personal injury and industrial disease with superb barristers at every level. They are particularly well placed to deal with complex cases. I have worked with barristers at QC, Junior and pupil level and the breadth and depth of knowledge is impressive at each level.*
- *Dealing with this set is inevitably a pleasant experience, with impressive counsel and attentive clerks. They are all people you wouldn't mind being stuck in a lift with.*
- *We are aware that the Chambers has a huge depth of talent, so we can always get someone who has appropriate experience.*

## Clinical Negligence

Devereux ranked as Leading Set – Tier 4

Devereux is an 'excellent set' with 'responsive and efficient clerks' and practitioners who are 'very strong at all levels'. The set handles all aspects of clinical negligence work, with a particular focus on high-value claims, including birth trauma, brain injury, and cerebral palsy. As well as representing claimants, barristers from this set also act for a wide range of defendants, including NHS trusts and health authorities, along with insurers and individual healthcare professionals. The 'phenomenal' Robert Glancy QC and 'superstar silk' Robert Weir QC are the senior counsel to note, while at the junior end, 'fantastic advocate' Richard Cartwright, 'extremely knowledgeable' Colin Mendoza, and 'tireless worker' and newly ranked Robert Hunter are the names to highlight.”

- **Robert Glancy QC** – Leading Silk Tier 2  
“A phenomenally bright trial advocate who is a pleasure to work with on all birth injury cases.”
- **Robert Weir QC** – Leading Silk Tier 2  
“A fantastic mind and ability to cut through to the key issues notwithstanding volumes of evidence and material.”
- **Richard Cartwright** – Leading Junior Tier 1  
“Makes excellent judgement calls and is completely trusted by clients and solicitors alike.”
- **Colin Mendoza** – Leading Junior Tier 4  
“Extremely knowledgeable and informative, as well as courteous and helpful.”
- **Rob Hunter** – Leading Junior Tier 4  
“He works tirelessly on his cases and the pleadings and paperwork he produces are second to none. He is excellent with experts and clients alike and, as a solicitor, it is a joy to work alongside him on a case. He isn't afraid of tackling the tricky cases.”

## Commercial Litigation

- **Colin Edelman QC** – Leading Silk Tier 4  
‘Simply exceptional, in both his written work and in advocacy - he is a dream to watch on his feet.’
- **Graham Read QC** – Leading Silk Tier 6  
‘He consistently demonstrates immense clarity of thought in his analysis and instils unwavering confidence whilst advising on issues that are inherently challenging.’
- **Harriet Fear Davies** – Leading Junior Tier 5  
“An absolutely excellent barrister to work with - she has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the case and was genuinely indispensable.”

## 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 2

“**Devereux**'s employment team consistently acts in complex and groundbreaking employment disputes and its members have strong appellate practices that cover both the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. The set represents blue chip multinationals, trade unions, and governments, and regularly handles high-profile Metropolitan Police cases. 'Skilled advocate' Bruce Carr QC represented the Royal Mail Group in the first appellate case to address interference in the voting process, under section 230 of The Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. Andrew Burns QC successfully upheld an EAT decision in the Court of Appeal, which argued that maternity leave was not comparable to leave for childcare purposes. Clients admire the 'fighting spirit and sound commercial advice' provided by rising star Marianne Tutin.”

- **Timothy Brennan QC** – Leading Silk Tier **3**  
'A highly knowledgeable, bright advocate.'
- **Bruce Carr QC** – Leading Silk Tier **1**  
'A real heavy hitter in the employment world. He is a skilled advocate and tenacious at representing his client's interests.'
- **Andrew Burns QC** – Leading Silk Tier **3**  
'Very pleasant to deal with, responsive and a go-to person for industrial relations work.'
- **Akash Nawbatt QC** – Leading Silk Tier **3**  
'Very hardworking and diligent, and invests the time to understand matters in depth. He also handles clients well and is an excellent advocate.'
- **Peter Edwards** – Leading Junior Tier **3**  
'He is very thorough and has an exceptional level of knowledge.'
- **Alice Mayhew** – Leading Junior Tier **4**  
'Has a good understanding of clients' particular characteristics, is good with witnesses and technically sound.'
- **Lucinda Harris** – Leading Junior Tier **4**  
'She is excellent with clients and extremely knowledgeable.'
- **Laura Bell** – Leading Junior Tier **4**  
'Hugely bright and great with clients. She is a master of detail and uses this to great effect when cross-examining. Laura also gets the big picture and the objectives of the client - her advice is therefore commercial and relevant.'
- **Talia Barsam** – Leading Junior Tier **3**  
'Talia has excellent client care skills and is a strong advocate, who is able to adapt very quickly to situations and adjust her approach accordingly.'
- **Thomas Cordrey** – Leading Junior Tier **3**  
'Technically excellent and very quick thinking on his feet.'
- **Christopher Stone** – Leading Junior Tier **3**  
'Extremely hardworking, an excellent team player, and good on paper and in court.'
- **Alice Carse** – Leading Junior Tier **4**  
'An unshakeable, levelled and precise advocate. She is excellent with clients and translates complex legal matters into commercially focused solutions, enabling decisions to be made.'
- **Kate Balmer** – Leading Junior Tier **4**  
'Robust and impressive in cross-examination. Diligent, sharp and good with clients; it is also evident just how much she cares.'

- [Georgina Hirsch](#) – Leading Junior Tier 4  
'Pragmatic, responsive, and works well as part of the team. Clients like her, and trust her judgement and that she has their best interests at heart.'
- [Jesse Crozier](#) – Leading Junior Tier 4  
'Very good with clients, strikes up a good rapport with judges, and has a good grasp of very technical areas of law.'
- [Sebastian Purnell](#) – Leading Junior Tier 4  
'Very responsive, good at thinking on his feet, engenders confidence, good with clients, and a great advocate. Very much across the detail of his matters and very bright.'
- [Georgia Hicks](#) – Leading Junior Tier 4  
'Really hardworking, well prepared and persuasive. Doesn't leave a stone unturned.'
- [Bayo Randle](#) – Leading Junior Tier 4  
'A team player, with huge attention to detail and good strategic skills.'
- [Marianne Tutin](#) – Leading Junior Rising Star  
'A superb junior who is no doubt on her way to great achievements. Her in-depth knowledge and up-to-date advocacy on employment status issues is second-to-none at her level.'

### IT and Telecoms (excluding regulatory)

**Devereux** is ranked as a Leading Set – Tier 3

“Leading telecoms set’ **Devereux** fields notable expertise across regulatory and non-regulatory telecoms work, and has set itself out as a key name for Electronic Communications Code cases. In a notable highlight, 'go-to silk' Graham Read QC and Shaen Catherwood are representing the claimants and Mobile Broadband Network, the infrastructure company for EE and Hutchinson 3G, in *EE Limited and Hutchinson 3G v The Meyrick Trust* following the Meyrick Trust's objection to the granting of new Code rights to the claimants. Read and Rory Cochrane have also been active in artificial inflation of traffic cases.”

- [Graham Read QC](#) – Leading Silk Tier 2  
'He consistently demonstrates immense clarity of thought in his analysis and instils unwavering confidence whilst advising on issues that are inherently challenging.'
- [Shaen Catherwood](#) – Leading Junior Tier 3  
'Shaen is attentive and very commercial. He is quick and always available - an asset to our team and our go-to barrister on telecoms.'
- [Rory Cochrane](#) – Leading Junior Tier 4  
'He has a specific expertise in the field of so-called "multi-site agreements" and the application of the Electronic Communications Code to those.'

### IT and Telecoms – Telecoms (regulatory)

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

- [Graham Read QC](#) – Leading Silk  
'He consistently demonstrates immense clarity of thought in his analysis and instils unwavering confidence whilst advising on issues that are inherently challenging.'

- [Georgina Hirsch](#) – Leading Junior  
'She is a good team player, very popular with clients and wonderful to work with.'

## Insurance and Reinsurance

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

“**Devereux** is 'a really good set' that is regularly involved in all aspects of insurance and reinsurance-related disputes, both domestically and internationally, including arbitrations. Insurance dispute clients also benefit from the set's experience in complementary areas of work, such as professional negligence, personal injury, tax, employment, sport and pensions. Frequently brought into actions at Court of Appeal or Supreme Court stages, Colin Edelman QC acted for Travelers Insurance Company in a case that allowed the Supreme Court to review the principles concerning third-party costs orders; Andrew Burns QC acted on appeal for the excess layers reinsurers of Port of New York, which was in relation to 9/11 claims.”

- [Colin Edelman QC](#) – Leading Silk Tier 1  
'A great brain, with excellent presentational skills - he is the insurance/reinsurance barrister of the moment and a go-to QC for complex coverage advice.'
- [Andrew Burns QC](#) – Leading Silk Tier 4  
'Very client focused and highly commercial.'
- [Richard Harrison](#) – Leading Junior Tier 2  
'Approachable and user-friendly, tailored advice, with impressive drafting skills.'

## International Arbitration (arbitrators)

- [Colin Edelman QC](#) – Leading individuals Tier 1  
'In a nutshell, he's absolutely outstanding - he's phenomenally bright, very quick and very fair but at the same time tough.'

## International Arbitration (counsel)

- [Colin Edelman QC](#) – Leading Silk Tier 2  
'Great brain, excellent presentational skills and knowledge on reinsurance matters above all else.'

## Personal Injury

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

“**Devereux** has 'a wealth of experience in personal injury and industrial disease' and offers 'superb barristers at every level', showing particularly 'significant strength and depth in the field of catastrophic injury claims'. Robert Weir QC was successful for the claimant, the chair of the Asbestos Victims Support Groups Forum, in the Supreme Court in *Dring v Cape Intermediate Holdings Ltd*. Weir QC's other recent highlights include representing an insurer claimant in the Court of Appeal case *Liverpool Victoria Insurance*

Co. v Khan, which challenges the sentence handed down to a medical expert held guilty for contempt of court.”

- [Robert Glancy QC](#) – Leading Silk Tier 2  
‘Brilliant to have on board when the going gets tough.’
- [Stephen Killalea QC](#) – Leading Silk Tier 2  
‘An exceptional advocate who rises to the challenge however formidable or complex the case may be and invariably with great success.’
- [Robert Weir QC](#) – Leading Silk Tier 1, Leading Silk Industrial Disease  
‘An astute tactician who knows exactly where to set case trajectory and inspires supreme confidence.’
- [Bruce Silvester](#) – Leading Junior Tier 1  
‘Prepared to fight the toughest of cases and exudes confidence and belief.’
- [Colin Mendoza](#) – Leading Junior Tier 3  
‘Very approachable and provides extremely thorough explanations to clients.’
- [Peter Edwards](#) – Leading Junior Tier 4  
‘Has a great understanding of the medical and legal complexities in high value cases which ensures exceptional results.’
- [Richard Cartwright](#) – Leading Junior Tier 2  
‘Has superb judgement and an ability to take a step back from a case and look at the issues in the round.’
- [Stephen Cottrell](#) – Leading Junior Tier 5  
‘Knows how to talk to opponents and set out a client's case forcefully but without alienating opponents.’
- [Robert Hunter](#) – Leading Junior Tier 4  
‘Always adds value to a case and is particularly strong in fatal accident claims.’
- [Jonathan Butters](#) – Leading Junior Tier 5  
‘Very sharp, quick thinking and highly intelligent.’

### **Professional Negligence**

- [Colin Edelman QC](#) – Leading Silk Tier 1  
‘He has an extremely sharp legal mind.’
- [Richard Harrison](#) – Leading Junior Tier 4  
‘He is very knowledgeable and a skilled advocate.’

### **Sport**

- [Sebastian Purnell](#) – Leading junior Tier 4  
‘Very knowledgeable and thorough in his analysis of the case. Very good cross-examination. Calm and deliberate manner and very helpful in preparing to answer queries from the other side.’

## Private client: personal tax

Devereux ranked as a leading set- Leading set - Tier 2

“Devereux has ‘numerous high-quality individuals.’ The chambers has ‘a huge depth of talent in this area and we can always get someone who has the appropriate experience.’ Members of this set’s thriving tax practice include Aparna Nathan QC who is acting as sole counsel for the HMRC in *David Beadle v HMRC*. This case is looking at the issue of Partner Payment Notice penalties. In other highlights, Marika Lemos is advising the Revenue in *Ardeshir Naghshineh v HMRC* in an Upper Tribunal on the issue of sideways loss relief for farming losses. HMRC is seeking clarification in this case on the ‘reasonable expectation of profits’ test.”

- **Felicity Cullen QC** – Leading silk Tier 2  
‘First-class brain and technical knowledge but capable of delivering advice of great clarity to any audience. Always well prepared, practical and pragmatic and answers the questions you ought to have asked, but overlooked.’
- **Akash Nawbatt QC** – Leading Silk Tier 3  
‘HMRC’s top choice for residence and domicile matters.’
- **Aparna Nathan QC** – Leading Silk **2019 Silks**  
‘Is the go-to person for all contentious non-dom cases. She combines intellectual rigour with a superb knowledge of how HMRC think.’
- **Barrie Akin** – Leading Junior Tier 3  
‘Has a very succinct analytical style and is able to ‘translate’ the complexities of UK pensions tax so that it is intelligible to non-tax specialists.’
- **Rebecca Murray** – Leading Junior Tier 3  
‘An outstanding junior.’
- **Marika Lemos** – Leading Junior Tier 1  
‘Very knowledgeable and very thorough - leaves no stone unturned. Also works well as part of a team (and in holding the team together).’
- **Christopher Stone** – Leading Junior Tier 3  
‘Has unrivalled litigation and advisory experience in many areas of personal tax including employment tax (in particular IR35), residence and domicile.’

## Tax: Corporate and VAT

Devereux ranked as a Leading Set – Tier 2

“Devereux is ‘a good set with great strength in depth’ has a sophisticated revenue-side practice, which sits alongside the strong taxpayer-side instructions in relation to both direct and indirect tax. Employment taxes are a major area of expertise for many members, with Timothy Brennan QC handling a high-level employment status case. Akash Nawbatt QC, who is instructed by HMRC and taxpayers, represented the revenue in *Credit Suisse v HMRC*, relating to the one-off bank payroll tax following the 2008 financial crisis. Aparna Nathan QC continues to represent the revenue in a number of high-profile cases including *Walewski v HMRC*, the first litigation on the mixed membership rules applying to LLPs.”

- [Timothy Brennan QC](#) – Leading Silk Tier 2  
'His strengths include very strong legal analysis and excellent strategic thinking.'
- [Felicity Cullen QC](#) – Leading Silk Tier 2  
'Provides consistent, practical commercial advice.'
- [Jolyon Maugham QC](#) – Leading Silk Tier 2  
'A very clear and logical thinker and persuasive speaker.'
- [Akash Nawbatt QC](#) – Leading Silk Tier 2  
'A popular and long-standing choice for HMRC.'
- [Aparna Nathan QC](#) – Leading Silk **2019 Silks**  
'Very eloquent and particularly good at handling offshore matters.'
- [Barrie Akin](#) – Leading Junior Tier 2  
'Approachable, commercially aware and has a collaborative approach.'
- [Rebecca Murray](#) – Leading Junior Tier 2  
'Very clear in her advice and very easy to work with.'
- [Marika Lemos](#) – Leading Junior Tier 2  
'She has excellent client handling skills and is building a fantastic litigation practice. She is a clear, fluent and excellent advocate.'
- [Kate Balmer](#) – Leading Junior Tier 2  
'A great advocate who is diligent, sharp and hard-working.'
- [Christopher Stone](#) – Leading Junior Tier 2  
'He is hard-working and has an excellent grasp of the law.'

### Tax: VAT

Devereux ranked as a leading set – Tier 3

- [Felicity Cullen QC](#) – Leading Silk Tier 2  
'Provides consistent, practical commercial advice.'
- [Barrie Akin](#) – Leading Junior Tier 2  
'Approachable, commercially aware and has a collaborative approach.'
- [Rebecca Murray](#) – Leading Junior Tier 3  
'Very clear in her advice and very easy to work with.'
- [Marika Lemos](#) – Leading Junior Tier 1  
'She has excellent client handling skills and is building a fantastic litigation practice. She is a clear, fluent and excellent advocate.'
- [Kate Balmer](#) – Leading Junior Tier 3  
'A great advocate who is diligent, sharp and hard-working.'
- [Sebastian Purnell](#) – Leading Junior Tier 3  
'Very practical, pragmatic, and excellent when engaging with clients.'
- [Georgia Hicks](#) – Leading Junior Tier 2  
'A very articulate advocate in court.'



### Travel law (including jurisdictional issues)

- **Stephen Killalea QC** – Leading Silk Tier **3**  
'Very strong client care and good instincts for tough cases.'
- **Robert Weir QC** – Leading Junior Tier **1**  
'Exceptionally bright with great knowledge of travel law. Not afraid to take on very difficult and ground-breaking cases, and generally wins.'
- **Bruce Silvester** – Leading Junior Tier **2**  
'Very thorough and detailed drafting, and very persuasive written advocacy. Incisive.'
- **Robert Hunter** – Leading Junior Tier **3**  
'He is very responsive and provides prompt, detailed, considered advice.'

### **Recent Testimonials about the Clerks include:**

- Always very responsive, they run a tight ship.
- An impressive clerking operation that understands the commercial needs of solicitors.
- Chris Downes and Cyrus Biggs are always extremely professional and understanding
- Chris Downes is excellent. Not only is he responsive in finding appropriate counsel, he also thinks proactively about contacting us with developments. He really is exemplary in showing how clerks are developing out of the traditional role into true practice managers.
- Clerking service is very responsive and friendly, especially Zoe Hamilton.
- Clerks are fantastic and always at the end of the phone to help. James Hudson is great.
- Chris Downes and Cyrus Biggs are very responsive and always keen to offer assistance
- Easy to deal with. Interested in a long-term relationship.
- Find Laurence Willicombe and Cyrus Biggs are extremely helpful. Very responsive.
- Glenn Billenness, Chris Downes and James Hudson all excellent.
- Glenn Billenness is the Senior Practice Manager and one of my two 'go to' clerks whenever I am looking to instruct counsel. He is exceptionally good and I always feel confident that he and his team understand the needs of my clients.
- Head and shoulders about the competition. Good at meeting with instructing solicitors and broadening the relationship, constantly looking for opportunities to develop relationship with us. Glenn Billenness and Cyrus Biggs are great assets to the team.
- James Hudson is always extremely helpful. Nothing is ever too much trouble and he is always well organised. A prompt response is always received.
- The clerks are always extremely helpful and have a wide knowledge of procedures. The clerking is slick and responsive. James Hudson is particularly adept at working the diaries to accommodate the needs of instructing solicitors.

- They have a good understanding of procedures and they make the set very user friendly. James Hudson is worthy of mention for his enthusiasm and slick clerking.
- The extent of my communications with the clerks has been professional, pleasant and effective. The clerks have always been understanding, prompt and provided exactly what was required. Laurence Willicombe was in particular very helpful.
- Cyrus Briggs stands out for exceptional service as a clerk.
- Glenn Billenness and Cyrus Biggs in particular strive to see this as almost a consumer industry and accordingly work hard to make sure instructing solicitors are looked after.

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