

# 12

King's Bench Walk

## Daniel Sokol

Call: 2011  
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### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Clinical Negligence, Personal Injury, Education Law, Fraud, Inquests

Daniel has a particular interest in personal injury, clinical negligence, and education law. He has experience of multi-million pound PI and clinical negligence cases, including fatal accidents, tetraplegia, and traumatic amputations. He has also represented families at inquests involving deaths in hospital.

A former university lecturer (in medical ethics), he is comfortable on his feet and undertakes a wide range of court work, acting for Claimants and Defendants in all aspects of personal injury law and in common law disputes at multi-track and fast-track levels.

Daniel is also the Senior Adviser for Alpha Academic Appeals, assisting university students who have been accused of misconduct or who are appealing academic results.

Daniel has been a keynote speaker in international conferences, an after-dinner speaker, written three books on ethics and law and over 200 articles, both in peer-reviewed academic journals and in newspapers such as the Times, the Guardian and the International Herald Tribune.

He writes a regular column for the British Medical Journal on ethico-legal issues, for which he was awarded 'Best Column' by the Medical Journalists' Association in 2015; a recent article by Daniel offered his view on the ethics of the Charlie Gard case ([read it here](#)), and in 2017 Daniel called for a change in the law of medical disclosure in the British Medical Journal, [read the article here](#).

In November 2011, as a pupil, Daniel was awarded the Inner Temple Advocacy Prize.

Daniel was a member of several committees, including those for the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Justice, and the Royal College of Surgeons.

He is trained to accept direct instructions from the public under the Bar's public access scheme. He speaks French fluently, has conversational Spanish, and enjoys squash and tennis. He is a close-up magician and, in 2014, was admitted as a Member of the Magic Circle.

### Clinical Negligence

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As a former university lecturer in medical ethics and law based in a hospital, Daniel has in-depth knowledge of the

clinical environment and medical terminology. He has acted for Claimants in claims against a vast array of medical professionals, from surgeons to physiotherapists. He has experience of all aspects of clinical negligence litigation, from providing preliminary advice to appearing at trial.

Following a well-received talk at the annual AvMA conference, Daniel is particularly sought after in 'failure to consent' cases.

## **Personal Injury**

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Daniel has a strong and varied Personal Injury practice, acting in high value cases involving catastrophic injuries. He has been led in several cases by Frank Burton QC, acting for Claimants suffering from quadriplegia caused by accidents in the workplace.

He is comfortable drafting all pleadings, including the most complicated Schedules, conducting Joint Settlement Meetings, and appearing in court as a sensible but robust advocate.

## **Education Law**

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Daniel represents university students in misconduct and academic appeals and actions against higher education institutions.

He is regularly instructed by the Embassy of Qatar to assist Qatari nationals in educational difficulty.

He also runs a popular training course for university staff involved in academic and misconduct appeals.

## **Fraud**

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Daniel has a particular interest in all aspects of RTA fraud and, aside from drafting pleadings and appearing at trial, he is regularly instructed to meet lay witnesses at an early stage to 'test' the evidence and to advise on the wisdom or otherwise of pleading fraud.

## **Inquests**

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In keeping with his expertise in clinical negligence, Daniel focuses on deaths in hospital, acting for the deceased's family.

## **Qualifications & Awards**

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PhD Medical Ethics – Imperial College London (2006)

MSc Medical Ethics, Distinction – Imperial College London (2003)

MSc Social and Economic History – Green College, Oxford (2002)

BA (Hons) in Modern Languages, First – St Edmund Hall, Oxford (2001)

Bar Professional Training Course, Outstanding – City University, London (2011)

Graduate Diploma in Law, Distinction – BPP London (2010), with top mark in the country for Constitutional and Administrative Law

Best Column, Medical Journalists' Association (2015)

Inner Temple Advocacy Prize (2011)

Everard Ver Heyden Foundation Prize for Outstanding Result on the BPTC (2011)

Elfreda Edwards Scholarship, Inner Temple (2010)

## Memberships

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APIL

Action Against Medical Accidents

Member of the Magic Circle

## Publications

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Daniel has over 250 publications on medical ethics and law. These are available on his website:  
[www.medicalethicist.net](http://www.medicalethicist.net)

He has published 3 books.

## Cases

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Daniel has appeared in or assisted in several cases of particular interest, including:

Bitterly disputed and highly publicised case of *Joy v Joy*, husband's ("H") application to reduce drastically the £120,000 a year he was ordered to pay his ex-wife (represented by Daniel Sokol) was dismissed in spousal maintenance.

*Gary Palmer v Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust* (2016) (on whether a maxillofacial surgeon obtained valid consent for an operation in a patient enrolled on a randomised controlled trial)

*R (Saliesh Patel) v GMC* (on the lawfulness of the GMC's refusal to accept a doctor's primary medical qualification as an acceptable overseas qualification despite previous assurances).

*Mark Webley v St George's Hospital NHS Trust and Metropolitan Police* (on duties of police when handing over sectioned patient to hospital security).

*Waghorn v CQC* [2012] EWHC 1816 (Admin) (on whether a cosmetic surgeon operating in a basement was "carrying on" an independent hospital).