

# 12

King's Bench Walk

## David White

Call: 1999

white@12kbw.co.uk



### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Personal Injury, Clinical Negligence, Industrial Disease, Professional Negligence, International & Travel, Insurance, Product Liability, Costs, Fraud, Inquests, Public Authority Liability, Accidents at Sea/Maritime Claims, Military Claims

David's principal areas of practice are personal injury, clinical negligence, insurance/indemnity disputes and costs law. He is listed as a Leading Junior for Personal Injury Work in the Legal 500. David acts for claimants and defendants and is regularly instructed to represent clients both at court and at Joint Settlement Meetings.

In the Personal Injury field David is regularly instructed in RTA, EL, PL, product liability and holiday claims. David has particular expertise in serious injury cases including amputation, head injury, stress/CRPS and spinal injury. David also has a particular interest in all disease cases (asbestos, work related upper limb disorder/RSI, and HAVS) and cases with an international flavour that raise issues as to jurisdiction or applicable law.

In his clinical negligence practice, David acts principally for claimants. He regularly advises in cases involving complex medical issues, particularly concerning causation.

David also has an extensive costs practice, and regularly acts for paying and receiving parties in detailed assessments in the SCCO and the County Courts, often concerning substantial seven figure bills. He has been instructed in disputes concerning the enforceability of Conditional Fee Agreements and the recovery of uplifts and ATE insurance premiums.

David also advises insurers and policy-holders on policy disputes concerning policy wording and coverage and indemnity issues, and advises in solicitors negligence cases.

David has expertise in cross-border PI claims and is regularly instructed in cases that raise issues as to jurisdiction (Brussels Recast Regulation) and applicable law (Rome II).

David regularly lectures and presents seminars to solicitors and insurers. He has recently lectured on recent developments in EL claims, loss of earnings claims for the self-employed, costs claims and Part 36 developments. David sits on the Editorial Board of Kemp & Kemp: Law Practice and Procedure, and he edits the chapters on Provisional Damages, Interim Payments and MIB Claims.

### Accidents at Sea/Maritime Claims

David has a niche expertise in accidents at sea where liability is governed by the Athens Convention. Such cases are

litigated in the Admiralty Court which has its own particular procedures. This area of practice overlaps with David's expertise in foreign and international claims.

A recent example of such work, is *Neville v NDS/Howley*, a case that arose from injury sustained whilst the Claimant was on a "Treasure Hunt by RIB" trip in the Solent, the trip having been organised by his employer as a reward to the staff. The Claimant suffered spinal injury in the course of the trip and the physical injury developed into a psychologically-driven chronic pain state. This being an accident at sea, liability of the RIB operator was governed by the Athens Convention, and the case was litigated in the Admiralty Court. The case required expert liability evidence from experts on weather, sea state, tides and powerboating. The claim against the employer raised interesting issues as to the extent of an employer's duty in respect of delegated activities. David secured a substantial settlement for his client at a 3-way JSM.

## Qualifications & Awards

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Bar Vocational Course, "Very Competent" (ICSL, 1999)

CPE Diploma on Law (City University; 1998)

M.Stud. History of Art (Lincoln College, Oxford; 1997)

MA, English (Jesus College, Cambridge; 1996)

Major Scholar, Lincolns Inn (1998)

Hardwicke Entrance Award, Lincolns Inn (1997)

## Memberships

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PIBA, PNBA, London Common Law and Commercial Bar Association, British Institute of International and Comparative Law

## Directories

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David is listed as a Leading Junior in the field of Personal Injury in the Legal 500

## Publications

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Contributory Editor and member of the Editorial Board, *Kemp and Kemp Law Practice and Procedure*

## Cases

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### Personal Injury

*Conner v Bradman* [2007] EWHC 2789 (QB)

The first reported case on the application of the Ogden tables for contingencies other than mortality to multipliers for future loss of earnings. The Court arrived at the compromise position of splitting the Table A and B adjustments on the particular facts of the case. David represented the Defendant in this leading case.

*H v Q*

A catastrophic injury case where the claimant suffered somatoform pain disorder or conversion disorder as a result of an accident on a building site. David advised throughout on the complexities arising from the multi-disciplinary medical evidence and assessment of quantum. David was unled until the final stages of the litigation, when he was led by Frank Burton QC. The final Schedule of Loss totalled £2.5m, and settled at a second Joint Settlement Meeting for a substantial

seven figure sum, the discount reflecting uncertainty as to future prognosis.

## *O v G*

David acted for a claimant in this below- knee amputation case. The quantum issues were complicated by the fact that the claimant was living and working in the UK illegally, which raised issues as to *ex turpi* causa and where her future would be spent.

## *B v L*

David acted for a claimant in this catastrophic brain injury case. The claimant suffered a severe Traumatic Brain Injury as a result of a road accident and was left highly dependent on carers and requiring 24/7 care. The main issues were the appropriate care regime (residential home versus supported independent living in his own home with adaptations), case management and the extent of therapies. David was led by Frank Burton QC and the case settled for £4.25 million.

## **Clinical Negligence**

### *M v Wye Valley NHS Trust*

David represented the claimant in this complex clinical negligence case. The claimant suffered a catastrophic stroke at Hospital, as a result of which he was rendered blind and suffered brain damage. Breach of duty was admitted but causation was very much in issue, the issue being whether early intervention by a neurologist would have prevented the stroke or reduced the effects of the same. There was also substantial disagreement relating to the future care and accommodation claims. The Defendant instructed a QC from the outlet. David was unled until the very final stages of the litigation when he was led by Gerard Martin QC. The Schedule totalled £2.9 million. A substantial settlement was achieved at a JSM.

## **Travel/International**

### *Halfpenny v Virgin Holidays*

David recently successfully represented the tour operator at trial and defeated a claim for improper performance of the contract pursuant to the Package Travel Regs, the claim arising from a holidaymaker who fell down steps in what was alleged to be a poorly-lit area in a Caribbean resort.

### *Prow v ES Global*

*David acted for the family of the lighting technician who was killed as a result of the collapse of a concert stage at a Madonna concert in France. The case raised issues of jurisdiction and applicable law. The case settled by consent.*

## **Accidents at Sea**

### *Neville v NDS*

David represented the Claimant in this case that arose from injury sustained whilst the Claimant was on a "Treasure Hunt by RIB" trip in the Solent, the trip having been organised by his employer as a reward to the staff. The Claimant suffered spinal injury in the course of the trip and the physical injury developed into a psychologically-driven chronic pain

state. This being an accident at sea, liability of the RIB operator was governed by the Athens Convention, and the case was litigated in the Admiralty Division of the High Court. The case required expert liability evidence from experts on weather, sea state, tides and powerboating. The claim against the employer raised interesting issues as to the extent of an employer's duty in respect of delegated activities. David secured a substantial settlement for his client at a 3-way JSM.