

# 12

King's Bench Walk

## Ronald Walker QC

Call: 1962

Silk: 1983

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### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Professional Negligence, Insurance, Construction, Personal Injury, Industrial Disease, Health & Safety, Mediation, Arbitration

### JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

Recorder 1986 | Deputy High Court Judge 1993

Ronald Walker Q.C. is listed as a leading silk in the Legal 500 (Personal Injury) and in Chambers Directory (Personal Injury).

He has extensive recent experience of Group Litigation and disease cases, having acted for the DECC in the VWF litigation (*AB v British Coal Corporation and others*), subsequently in the *Phurnacite* litigation (*Jones v DECC*) and in the ongoing *Coke Workers* litigation (*Pearce v DBEI*). He practises mainly in the areas of Professional Negligence, Insurance, Building and Construction, and Personal Injury.

He has appeared in a number of leading cases including *South Australia Asset Management Co v York Montague Ltd* (SAAMCO), *Jameson v CEGB*, *Bryce v Swan Hunter Group*, *Rahman v Arearose Ltd*, *Darby v National Trust*, *Watson v British Boxing Board of Control*, *Greene Wood & McLean v Templeton Insurance Ltd*, *Copley v Lawn*, *Wilkin-Shaw v Fuller*, *Risk v Rose Bruford College*.

He is an accredited mediator (ADR Group), a TECBAR accredited adjudicator, and acts as an arbitrator.

### Professional Negligence

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Ronald Walker Q.C. regularly acts, for both claimants and defendants, in professional negligence actions, in particular involving architects, valuers, accountants, brokers and solicitors.

He represented one of the successful appellants in the House of Lords in SAAMCO and has appeared in many reported cases, including the leading Court of Appeal cases of

- *Goose v Wilson Sandford*
- *Greene Wood & McLean v Templeton Insurance Ltd*
- *Holt v Payne Skillington*
- *Merrett v Babb*
- *Knapp v Ecclesiastical Insurance*

He is listed as a leading silk in Chambers Directory (Professional Negligence: Technology and Construction) and is an accredited TECBAR adjudicator and mediator

## Insurance

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Ronald Walker Q.C. regularly acts for leading insurance companies, and also for insureds, in disputes over policy interpretation, policy avoidance and in subrogated claims.

Reported cases in these areas which he has appeared include

- *Exchange Theatres v Iron Trades Insurance Co*
- *Greene Wood & McLean v Templeton Insurance Ltd*
- *Merrett v Babb*
- *Knapp v Ecclesiastical Insurance*
- *T & N Ltd v Royal & Sun Alliance*
- *Blackwell v Girling Insurance*
- *HIH Casualty & General Insurance v JLT Risk Solutions*
- *United Marine Aggregates v GM Welding Ltd*
- *Keltbray Environmental Ltd v QBE Insurance*

## Construction

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Ronald Walker Q.C. regularly advises in construction disputes of all kinds and appears in litigation and arbitration.

Important reported cases in which he has appeared include

- *United Marine Aggregates Ltd v GM Welding Ltd* (claim for fire damage involving interpretation of the construction contract between the building owner and the maintenance contractor, and the interpretation of warranties in the latter's PL policy)
- *Cleightonhills v Bembridge Marine Ltd* (action by building owner against design and build contractor and sub-contractors in respect of design defects leading to catastrophic personal injury)
- *CA Blackwell (Contracts) Ltd v Gerling General Insurance Company* (Court of Appeal decision on interpretation of a Contractors All Risk Policy, involving the interpretation of a DE3 type exclusion)
- *Blue Circle Dartford Estates Ltd v J Jarvis Ltd* (decision on powers of court to stay arbitration proceedings. This application to the court was made in the context of a multi-party construction arbitration).
- *John Roberts Architects Ltd v Parkcare Homes (No 2) Ltd* (decision on interpretation of adjudication provisions in construction contract).
- *Surrey Heath Borough Council v Lovell Construction and Haden Young* (leading Court of Appeal case on insurance arrangements under JCT standard forms).

He is listed as a leading silk in Chambers Directory (Professional Negligence: Technology and Construction) and is an accredited TECBAR adjudicator and mediator

## Personal Injury

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Ronald Walker Q.C. is listed as a leading silk in both Chambers Directory and the Legal 500.

He appears regularly, for both claimants and defendants, in cases involving brain injury and other injuries of utmost severity, and in disease litigation, including asbestos diseases, respiratory diseases, lung, bladder and skin cancers, HAVS and deafness

Reported cases include

- *Armstrong v British Coal Corporation (VWF)*

- *Jones v DECC (Phurnacite litigation)*
- *Pearce v DECC (Coke Workers litigation)*
- *Bryce v Swan Hunter Group*
- *Rahman v Arearose Ltd*
- *Ballantine v Newalls Insulation*
- *Bernadone v Pall Mall Services Ltd*
- *Ellis v Bristol City Council*
- *Dalling v Heale Ltd*
- *Divia v Toyo Tire & Rubber Co Ltd*
- *Darby v National Trust*
- *Watson v British Boxing Board of Control*
- *Huntley v Simmonds*
- *Webster v The Ridgeway School*
- *Wilkin-Shaw v Fuller,*
- *Risk v Rose Bruford College*

## Industrial Disease

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Ronald Walker Q.C. is listed as a leading silk in both Chambers Directory and the Legal 500.

He appears regularly, for both claimants and defendants, in industrial disease litigation, including asbestos diseases, respiratory diseases, lung, bladder and skin cancers, HAVS and deafness

Reported cases in these areas include

- *Armstrong v British Coal Corporation (VWF)*
- *Jones v DECC (Phurnacite litigation)*
- *Pearce v DECC (Coke Workers litigation)*
- *Bryce v Swan Hunter Group*
- *Ballantine v Newalls Insulation*
- *Turner & Newall Ltd v Royal & Sun Alliance & Smith*

## Health & Safety

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Ronald Walker Q.C. regularly acts for defendants charged with health and safety offences of all kinds, including manslaughter. He has recently appeared in the Crown Court in several such cases, including

- *R v Menna* (prosecution of care home proprietor arising out of the unlawful killing of an employee)
- *R v Collier* (manslaughter prosecution against a builder arising out of the death of a child)
- *R v Abele View Ltd* (prosecution of care home proprietor arising out of death of a resident)
- *R v Gokani and Appleton* (prosecution of care home proprietors arising out of the death of a resident)
- *R v Alpha Schools Ltd* (prosecution of a school arising out of injury to a contractor undertaking construction work)

## Mediation

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Ronald Walker Q.C. is an accredited mediator and TECBAR adjudicator. He regularly mediates and adjudicates in disputes of all kinds within the areas of his practice.

## Appointments & Memberships

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Accredited mediator and TECBAR adjudicator

PNBA; TECBAR; LCLCBA; PIBA