

Andrew McLaughlin

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Personal Injury, Industrial Disease, Clinical Negligence, Insurance, Property, Property Damage

Andrew is a leading senior junior in the fields of personal injury and industrial disease recommended in Chambers UK and the Legal 500 for over 20 years. Andrew continues to practise from St John's Chambers in Bristol but is instructed nationwide by Defendants. He is known above all for being a formidable trial lawyer. He is ranked as a band 1 practitioner in personal injury and is listed as a disease expert in Chambers UK Spotlight table. He has been a member of the Government panel ('Treasury Counsel') since 2012. In 2018 he was appointed to the 'A' panel which is reserved for counsel expected to conduct work on the Government's behalf involving millions of pounds against KCs.

Andrew is instructed by all the national firms nearly always on behalf of defendants and their insurers, especially in cases involving fundamental dishonesty, catastrophic injuries, amputations, fatal accidents, chronic pain disorders, serious psychiatric injuries as well as asbestos-related disease, HAVS, occupational stress, sexual abuse and WRULDs. He has been involved in numerous reported or high profile cases in recent years. He opened the appeal on behalf of the successful defendants in *Denton v TH White*. He appeared for the Defendant in *Williams v Betsi Cadwaladr Local Health Board* [2022] EWHC 455 (clinical negligence), *Walkden v Drayton Manor Park* [2021] EWHC 2056 (fundamental dishonesty), *Arshdeep v Buttar Construction* [2021] EWCA Civ 1408 (interim payment tetraplegia), *ATX v CRS and DPS* (2019) *Kemp Quantum* (severe child brain injury and tetraplegia), *Smith v Secretary of State for Transport* [2020] EWHC 1954 (asbestosis), *Stewart v Lewisham & Greenwich NHS Trust* [2017], EWCA Civ 2091 (manual handling), *Dyson v Heart Of England NHS Trust* [2017] EWHC 1910 (clinical negligence), *Smith v Secretary of State for Transport* [2020] EWHC 1954 (asbestos). This year he comprehensively defeated a well known KC in a £1.6m fundamental dishonesty claim to widespread national acclaim.

Andrew acts primarily for defendants in complex clinical negligence cases.

In addition, he defends public authorities against claims for misuse of private information, breach of confidence and breach of Data Protection legislation.

Industrial Disease

Andrew is a leading industrial disease barrister whose work takes him all over the country but especially in the South West and Wales. He is one of a handful of specialists nationwide recommended in Chambers UK spotlight table for disease work as well as the Legal 500. He is the only barrister in Bristol who has retained his place in the Chambers & Partners spotlight table for disease work over the past 5 years.

He has been involved in a number of reported cases involving asbestos/respiratory disease (mesothelioma, asbestosis,

lung cancer, occupational asthma), occupational stress and harassment/bullying, noise, work related upper limb disorders, hand/arm vibration syndrome, sexual abuse, bacterial exposure (c difficile, mrsa, campylobacter). He is also a Panel A member of the TSOL panel. He represented the Secretary of State for Transport in Smith v Secretary of State for Transport [2020] EWHC 1954 (asbestosis). He successfully defended nearly 20 claims for alleged symptoms arising from exposure to ammonia gas and aluminium salts at a chemical plant in Shropshire which were discontinued after defences were filed. Presently he is instructed in several very substantial mesothelioma claims including the defence of one pleaded at in excess of £3m.

Andrew successfully represented the defendant in the Court of Appeal in the case of Coventry University v Mian [2014] EWCA Civ 1275, an appeal against a decision of HHJ Barrie that the university was liable to Dr Mian, a senior lecturer, for work-related stress. In 2013, Andrew defeated a huge claim for stress at work involving an 8-day High Court trial, the defence of a substantial claim for exposure to C difficile causing permanent bowel problems, defending a claim for acoustic shock and recovering damages for claimants in various complicated mesothelioma claims. He acted on behalf of the Bank of New York Mellon in connection with a claim for in excess of £1 million by a former Head of Executive Office for stress at work, which was reported in the national press.