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King's Bench Walk

Daniel Sokol



Call: 2011
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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

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

Daniel is recognised as a Leading Junior in both the Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners, where he is described as ‘extraordinarily bright’, ‘a great advocate’, ‘sound [in] judgement’ and a ‘singularly impressive lawyer who punches well above his level of call.’

Specialising in clinical negligence, personal injury, and education law, Daniel has extensive experience handling high-value, catastrophic injury cases, including fatal road traffic and boating accidents. His expertise extends to complex medical negligence cases involving clinicians in hospitals and in primary care, with a focus on incidents causing death, birth injuries, spinal injuries, amputations, and other life-changing disabilities.

A former university lecturer with a PhD in medical ethics, Daniel’s advocacy – both written and oral – is known for its clarity and persuasiveness. In November 2011, as a pupil, Daniel was awarded the Inner Temple Advocacy Prize and he has been involved in advocacy training for Bar students.

He undertakes a wide range of court work, acting for both Claimants and Defendants.

Daniel is the Lead Adviser for Alpha Academic Appeals, assisting university students who have been accused of misconduct (from cheating to sexual assault), who are appealing academic results, or who are undergoing fitness to practise procedures.

Daniel has been a keynote speaker in international medical conferences, an after-dinner speaker, written four books on ethics and law and over 400 articles, both in peer-reviewed academic journals and in newspapers such as the Times, the Guardian, the Telegraph, the Independent, and the New York Times.

He is a columnist for the British Medical Journal on ethico-legal issues, for which he was awarded ‘Best Column’ by the Medical Journalists’ Association in 2015.

In 2020, Daniel was appointed the first Chairman of the Metropolitan Police Research Ethics Committee. He formerly served on several committees, including those for the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Justice, and the Royal College of Surgeons. He is the current President of the Osler Club of London, a prestigious medical society founded in 1928.

He is trained to accept direct instructions from the public under the Bar’s public access scheme and has authority to conduct litigation. He is an accredited mediator.

Daniel 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

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.

Married to a neurosurgeon, he thrives in cases involving severe spinal and brain injuries.

Personal Injury

Daniel has a strong and varied Personal Injury practice, acting in high value cases involving catastrophic injuries in adults and children. He has been led in several cases by Frank Burton KC, Lizanne Gumbel KC, Colin McCaul KC, Paul Russell KC, Gerard Martin KC, and Simon Readhead KC.

Education Law

Daniel represents university students in misconduct and academic appeals, fitness to practise proceedings, and actions against higher education institutions. He has particular expertise in cases involving allegations of cheating and academic misconduct.

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.

Mediation

Daniel obtained his accreditation as a mediator in 2019 by the Bar Council-approved Society of Mediators. He can mediate a wide range of disputes, from contractual disagreements to PI/clinical negligence cases.

Qualifications & Awards

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)

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Appointments & Memberships

Chair, Metropolitan Police Research Ethics Committee

APIL

Member of the Magic Circle

Publications

Daniel has over 400 publications on medical ethics and law. These are available on his website: www.medicalethicist.net

He has published 4 books, most recently 'Tough Choices: Stories from the Front Line of Medical Ethics', which has been translated in Russian.

Cases

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

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

John Taheny v Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and Others (2020) (on the non-disclosure of a diagnosis of Klinefelter's syndrome for over 50 years)

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)

Directories

Daniel brought in a fresh pair of eyes, his analysis was very helpful, we got a really good settlement. His client service was good, and he was interested and invested in the case. – Chambers & Partners, 2026

He has a wide range of experience to bring to a case, and is able to think creatively to navigate his way through a difficult case. – Chambers & Partners, 2026

Daniel is a joy to work with. He is humane, very considered and a trusted pair of hands. He makes working less stressful and is a barrister you want on your side. – Chambers & Partners, 2026

Daniel Sokol is an incredible advocate, he is charming, pleasant and fun. – Chambers & Partners, 2026

He is an effective advocate, with commercial awareness regarding the economics of the work required and the budgeting. – Chambers & Partners, 2026

Daniel is an exceptional advocate. – Legal 500, 2026

He is flexible, creative and works excellently with solicitors, clients, experts and leading counsel. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

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He is very meticulous, very thorough and very prepared. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

He is robust in his advice, good with clients and an expert. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

He responds promptly to all correspondence and is a pleasure to work with. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

Daniel has exceptional attention to detail and his service is above and beyond. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

A great advocate who is able to unpick an opponent's arguments. Very good on his paperwork and his drafting is first class. – Legal 500, 2025

Daniel is extraordinarily bright and a highly effective litigator. He has sound judgement and good commercial awareness. He is a singularly impressive lawyer who punches well above his level of call. – Legal 500, 2024

A keen eye for detail, intelligent, amiable and pragmatic. An extremely accomplished advocate. – Legal 500, 2023

A good tactician with a razor sharp mind. He has extensive expertise in clinical negligence cases. – Legal 500, 2022