

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.

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.

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)

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 (Salish 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)