

## Harry Steinberg KC

Call: 1997

Silk: 2016

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### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Personal Injury, Industrial Disease, International & Travel, Product Liability, Aviation, Group Litigation, Sport

Harry Steinberg is a “widely acclaimed practitioner”, “brilliantly knowledgeable”, with a “standout practice”. His practice spans serious injury, sports law and environmental damage. His work often involves an international dimension and he specialises in large-scale group actions for claimants and defendants. He is renowned for innovative thinking, challenging legal orthodoxy, and winning difficult cases. Accordingly, he is regularly instructed in test litigation. The directories recognise him as a leading silk in personal injury, industrial disease, product liability, group litigation and international litigation.

### International & Travel

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Harry specialises in cross-border group claims. His work has included:

- *The Bomu Bonny Pipeline Litigation*: claims brought by 15,600 claimants arising out of two huge oil spills in the Niger Deltas.
- *The Iraqi Civilian Litigation*: claims against the Ministry of Defence brought by civilians who were assaulted and unlawfully detained by UK military personnel during the invasion of Iraq in 2003.
- *Vilca & Ors v Xstrata Plc & Xstrata Tintaya SA*: Peruvian environmental protestors brought claims for serious injuries and mistreatment sustained during demonstrations at an Andean copper mine.
- *Silicosis*: class action, for thousands of goldminers, in South Africa.
- *AB v C*: acting for the Defendant in the Grand Court of Cayman Islands, the Cayman Islands Court of Appeal and the Privy Council, in a case arising out of an explosion at a power station in the Cayman Islands.

He acts in claims involving choice of law and jurisdictional issues, including in *Jamieson v Württembergische Versicherung A.G.*

### Directories

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*His command of the subject matter is second-to-none. Harry is prepared to look at more unusual claims and is skilled at identifying and assessing the issues.* – Legal 500, 2023

*Brilliantly knowledgeable in this niche area. Harry pushes boundaries and champions the claimants.* – Legal 500, 2023

*Harry is approachable and is well liked by clients.* – Chambers & Partners, 2023

*His knowledge is second to none. He is very skilled and astute.* – Chambers & Partners, 2023

*A good advocate who is well prepared and knows how to argue the law.* – Chambers & Partners, 2022

*Harry is excellent at identifying the key themes that will resonate with the court then presenting them in a calm and persuasive manner.* – Legal 500, 2022

*He is absolutely a first choice for personal injury and industrial disease claims.* – Chambers & Partners, 2021

*He specialises in large-scale group claims.* – Legal 500, 2021

*Able to fully grasp the pertinent facts and issues in a given claim with ease.* – Legal 500, 2021

*He is always empathetic and responsive to individual claimant circumstances.* – Chambers & Partners, 2020

*He has a good understanding of the law and is very approachable.* – Chambers & Partners, 2020

*He's great with clients and is a dogged advocate. He supports his clients to make sure they achieve the best results.* – Chambers & Partners, 2020

*He is exceptionally knowledgeable about the law in this field and is willing to take on difficult cases and push the boundaries. He's a leader in this field and the go-to person for mesothelioma cases. He has developed a formidable reputation in this specialist area.* – Chambers & Partners, 2020

*He has an exceptional level of knowledge and is fantastic with clients. He's happy to consider more unusual types of claims and has the experience and expertise to do so.* – Chambers & Partners, 2020

*He's the first port of call for any complex asbestos-related case. You get a real sense that he successfully pushes the boundaries of the law to the benefit of his clients.* – Chambers & Partners, 2019

*He is very bright and knowledgeable.* – Chambers & Partners, 2019

*He's very approachable and good with clients, as well as being very knowledgeable and prepared to push the boundaries.* – Chambers & Partners, 2019

*He's an enormously talented barrister.* – Chambers & Partners, 2019

*He specialises in large-scale group claims.* – Legal 500, 2019

*An excellent barrister who communicates legal issues to clients in a straightforward manner.* – Legal 500, 2019

*Always looking to push the boundaries. You'd struggle to find anyone with more trial experience than him.* – Chambers & Partners, 2018

*Very crisp on paper and very clever.* – Chambers & Partners, 2018

*An exceptional advocate.* – Chambers & Partners, 2018

*He has extensive experience in asbestos related work.* – Legal 500, 2018

*Good on paperwork.* – Legal 500, 2018

*He is superb on his feet and his written work is out of this world. He cuts out all of the nonsense.* – Chambers & Partners, 2017

*In terms of his knowledge and advocacy, he's second to none.* – Chambers & Partners, 2017

*He's incredibly clever and willing to take on cases involving particularly difficult points of law.* – Chambers & Partners, 2017

*An exceptional advocate with first-class knowledge.* – Legal 500, 2017

*A strong barrister and a thoughtful and insightful tactician.* – Legal 500, 2017

*Recommended for international tort law arising from large-scale environmental litigation.* – Legal 500 (Environment), New Silks tier 1, 2016

*He has an extraordinary legal mind with an ability to understand complex legal issues very quickly.* – Legal 500 (Personal Injury), New Silks tier 1, 2016

## Cases

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*Knauer v Ministry of Justice [2014] EWHC 2553 (QB)*: acting for the claimant in a fatal accident claim in which Bean J (as he then was) gave the claimant a 'leapfrog' certificate to appeal directly to the Supreme Court on the issue of the appropriate date for the calculation of multipliers in fatal claims. The Supreme Court gave permission for the appeal, which will be heard in late 2015 or early 2016

*Lawrence v Fen Tigers Ltd and others [2015] AC 106* (sometimes known as "Coventry v Lawrence"): appeared in the Supreme Court on behalf of a national asbestos charity on the issue of the compatibility of the CFA regime with the ECHR. Decision expected later this year.

*The Bomu-Bonny Oil Pipeline Litigation*: Acting on behalf of 15,600 claimants, and in three representative claims, in litigation arising out of two huge oil spills in the Niger Delta. This is believed to be the UK's largest ever environmental action.

*Haxton v Philips Electronics UK Ltd [2014] 1 WLR 2721*: acting on behalf of the claimant at trial and in the Court of Appeal. The claimant's husband died of mesothelioma, and she made a claim as his widow. She then contracted mesothelioma as a result of the same defendant's negligence. This drastically reduced her life expectancy and she recovered the shortfall as the 'diminution in value' of her personal claim. This created a novel head of damages.

*Greenway and others v Johnson Matthey Plc [2014] EWHC 3957 (QB)*: appeared at trial in this test case on behalf of hundreds of workers who have contracted platinum sensitivity as a result of occupational exposure to platinum salts.

*Concept 70 and others v Cape International Holdings Ltd*: Acting for the claimants in this major product liability group test case for insurers seeking contribution to settled claims from product manufacturers.

*Ghoorah v West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group and others*: appeared at trial for the claimant widow in this fatal mesothelioma claim. The judge made the highest ever general damages award in a mesothelioma case.

*Zambarda v Shipbreaking (Queenborough) Ltd [2013] EWHC 2263 (QB)*: acted for the claimant at trial in this fatal mesothelioma. Obtained case management costs as part of the services dependency claim.

*Wilson v Ministry of Defence [2013] CP Rep33*: Novel point of law on the definition of "trial" under CPR Part 36. Successful on appeal.

*Najib v John Laing Plc [2011] EWHC 1016*

*Pankhurst v (1) White (2) the Motor Insurers' Bureau [2010] EWCA Civ 1445*

*Beesley v New Century Group Ltd [2008] EWHC 3033 (QB)*

*Zamparelli v Bristol City Council and another [2007] EWCA Civ 377*: acted at trial and appeared in the Court of Appeal for the defendant in this claim for negligent misstatement arising out of allegedly negligent planning advice.

*Rothwell v Chemical & Insulating Co [2007] UKHL 39; [2006] ICR 1458*: junior counsel for the claimants in the pleural plaque test case.