12
King's Bench Walk

John-Paul Swoboda KC



Call: 2006
Silk: 2025

swoboda@12kbw.co.uk

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Industrial Disease, Clinical Negligence, International & Travel, Aviation, Personal Injury, Insurance, Motor Insurance, Professional Negligence, Sport

John-Paul specialises in Personal Injury, Asbestos Litigation, Clinical Negligence, International injury litigation (including aviation), Indemnity and insurance, Professional Negligence, Group litigation and Sports. He undertakes high value work appearing in the High Court and Appellate Courts. He enjoys working as part of a team. He won the Legal 500 Personal Injury Junior of the Year Award in 2023. John-Paul was elected joint Deputy Head of Chambers in July 2024. He took silk in 2025.

In relation to asbestos claims, he is instructed by most, if not all, well-regarded claimant firms with an established asbestos team. He is ranked in Chambers and Partners and the Legal 500. Recent reported cases include:

- Johnstone v Fawcett's Garage (Newbury) [2025] PIQR P15 (Court of Appeal)
- Keegan v Independent Insurance Co Ltd [2022] EWHC 1992 (QB);
- Brooks v Zurich Insurance Plc [2022] EWHC 1170 (QB);
- Witham v Steve Hill Ltd [2021] EWCA Civ 1312 (led by Steven Snowden KC);
- Gregory v H J Haynes Ltd [2020] EWHC 911 (Ch);
- Helm v Kenyon & Sons Ltd v Somewatch Ltd [2019] EWHC 1108 (QB);
- Cary v Vauxhall Motors Ltd [2019] EWHC 238 (QB);
- Mark v Universal Coatings and Services Ltd v Barrier Ltd [2018] EWHC 3206 (QB);
- Stacey v Triplex Safety Glass Company Ltd [2017] EWHC 1945 (QB).

His private international law expertise spans jurisdiction (pre and post-Brexit), applicable law (pre and post-Brexit), forum non conveniens cases and service out of the jurisdiction in both injury and non-injury commercial work. John-Paul also has expertise in Aviation, having worked on cases arising from air disasters. He regularly appears in Package Holidays claims, Admiralty matters, Athens and Montreal Convention cases and clinical negligence cases with a foreign element. As a result of his Spanish language skills, John-Paul is often instructed in Spanish cases and has appeared as

an expert in English law in the Spanish Courts. Recent reported cases include: *Chouza v Martins & Ors* [2021] EWHC 1669 (QB) (Spanish law); *Haggerty-Garton v ICI* [2021] EWHC 2924 (QB) (Scots law); *Maddison v TUI* [2023] EWHC (to be heard by the Court of Appeal). John-Paul is ranked in the Legal 500 for Travel Law including Jurisdictional issues.

John-Paul's clinical negligence work is high value work often relating to birth injury, brain injury, spinal injury, amputation, other catastrophic outcomes and fatalities. He receives instructions from most ranked firms. He is ranked in the directories for his clinical negligence work. He enjoys the medical and scientific aspects of such litigation and works closely with his instructing solicitors and experts.

He undertakes all personal injury work including EL, PL and RTA cases. Reported cases include *Irani v Duchon* [2019] EWCA Civ 1846.

John-Paul has expertise and experience in professional negligence claims acting for claimants and defendants. He is often instructed in relation to claims relating to solicitors and barristers and also has experience of many other professions. He successfully represented the Claimant in the Court of Appeal in *Witcomb v Keith Park Solicitors* [2023] PNLR 20.

He practices Sports Law where he is able to bring his extensive Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence knowledge to bear on such matters. He also has expertise in respect of non-injury Sports work of a contractual or regulatory nature. He has received instructions relating to those in the English Premier League, for professional jockeys and for other professional sports people.

John-Paul has expertise and litigation experience in indemnity and insurance work. In respect of motor indemnity, he has a broad range of experience and expertise in cases which involve consideration where the insurer may fall within the liability tree (from contractual, hybrid, RTA, Article 75 or MIB). He has expertise in respect of issues arising under the Insurance Act 2015, and the Third Parties (Rights against insurers) Act 2010.

Industrial Disease

John-Paul is a recognised leader in asbestos claims in which he is instructed by most, if not all, well-regarded claimant firms with an established asbestos team. He has also been instructed in silicosis claims and has expertise and experience in large multi-party actions and group actions. He won the Legal 500 Personal Injury Junior of the Year Award in 2023.

Recent reported cases include:

- Johnstone v Fawcett's Garage (Newbury) Ltd [2025] PIQR P15 (Court of Appeal)
- Keegan v Independent Insurance Co Ltd [2022] EWHC 1992 (QB);
- Brooks v Zurich Insurance Plc [2022] EWHC 1170 (QB);
- Witham v Steve Hill Ltd [2021] EWCA Civ 1312 (led by Steven Snowden KC);
- Gregory v H J Haynes Ltd [2020] EWHC 911 (Ch);
- Helm v Kenyon & Sons Ltd v Somewatch Ltd [2019] EWHC 1108 (QB);
- Cary v Vauxhall Motors Ltd [2019] EWHC 238 (QB);
- Mark v Universal Coatings and Services Ltd v Barrier Ltd [2018] EWHC 3206 (QB);
- Stacey v Triplex Safety Glass Company Ltd [2017] EWHC 1945 (QB).

Clinical Negligence

John-Paul's clinical negligence work is high value work often relating to birth injury, brain injury, spinal injury, amputation, other catastrophic outcomes and fatalities. He receives instructions from most ranked firms. He is ranked in the directories for his clinical negligence work. He enjoys the medical and scientific aspects of *such* litigation and works closely with his instructing solicitors and experts.

The below provides a flavour of the clinical negligence cases John-Paul undertakes:

- Birth injuries and cerebral palsy cases
- Spinal injuries
- Amputations
- Failure to diagnose meningitis in an infant leading to a catastrophic outcome
- Failure by GP to refer in a sepsis case leading to catastrophic outcome
- Failure to diagnosis a dermoid cyst on a 15-week-old baby leading to severe brain injury.
- Delayed diagnosis of a brain tumour.
- A failure to diagnosis gall stone disease leading to pancreatitis, abdominal sepsis and severe complications including a complex form of diabetes.
- A claim arising from delay in A&E resulting in an above knee amputation.
- A claim arising from unnecessary surgery performed on a minor with complex congenital conditions (club feet and bowed legs) which left the claimant severely disabled.
- A claimant who suffered destruction of vestibular system by being given a toxic dose of antibiotics. As a result, the claimant has little, if any, sense of balance and disturbed vision.
- A failed radical prostatectomy giving rise to complete urinary incontinence.
- A delay in paediatric cardiac surgery leading to the death of a young child with a congenital cardiac condition.
- Failure to act on an abnormal smear test in a young woman who suffered from cervical cancer

International & Travel

His private international law expertise spans jurisdiction (pre and post-Brexit), applicable law (pre and post-Brexit), forum non conveniens cases and service out of the jurisdiction in both injury and non-injury commercial work. John-Paul also has expertise in Aviation, having worked on cases arising from high profile air disasters. He regularly appears in Package Holidays claims, Admiralty matters, Athens and Montreal Convention cases and clinical negligence cases with a foreign element. John-Paul is ranked in the Legal 500 for Travel Law including Jurisdictional issues.

John-Paul is a fluent Spanish speaker which is often helpful where the litigation has a Spanish element. John-Paul is often instructed in Spanish cases and has appeared as an expert in English law in the Spanish Courts.

Recent reported cases include:

- Maddison v TUI [2023] EWHC (settled prior to Court of Appeal in 2025).
- Chouza v Martins & Ors [2021] EWHC 1669 (QB) (Spanish law);
- Haggerty-Garton v ICI [2021] EWHC 2924 (QB) (Scots law)

Personal Injury

John-Paul practices in all aspects of Personal Injury law and receives instructions from respected national firms representing both claimants and defendant insurers. He undertakes high value claims of the utmost severity. He won the Legal 500 Personal Injury Junior of the Year Award in 2023.

He has vast experience and expertise in relation to road traffic claims, employer's liability and public liability matters. Cases do not always fit within the standard nomenclature; past cases include a claim against an employer arising from the murder of an employee whilst at work and electrocution of a home-owner from overhead power cables. John-Paul has experience of claims of the highest value.

Reported cases include *Chouza v Martins & Ors* [2021] EWHC 1669 (QB) and *Irani v Duchon* [2019] EWCA Civ 1846.

Indemnity and Insurance

John-Paul has expertise and litigation experience in indemnity and insurance work. In respect of motor indemnity, he

has a broad range of experience and expertise in cases which involve consideration where the insurer may fall within the liability tree (from contractual, hybrid, RTA, Article 75 or MIB). He has expertise in respect of issues arising under the Insurance Act 2015 and the Third Parties (Rights against insurers) Act 2010, for example John-Paul acted in Keegan v Independent Insurance Co Ltd [2022] EWHC 1992 (QB), a case which tested the temporal scope of the 2010 Act.

Professional Negligence

John-Paul has expertise and experience in professional negligence claims acting for claimants and defendants. He is often instructed in relation to claims relating to solicitors and barristers' and also has experience of many other professions.

John-Paul successfully represented the Claimant in the Court of Appeal in Witcomb v Keith Park Solicitors [2023] PNLR 20.

Sports Law

He practices in Sports Law where he is able to bring his extensive PI and clin neg knowledge to bear on such matters. However, his practice is not restricted to injury related work; he accepts non-injury Sports work of a contractual or regulatory nature. He has received instructions relating to those in the English Premier League, for professional jockeys and for other professional sports people.

Qualifications

University of Sheffield; International European and Comparative Law (LLB) 2001 – 2004

Memberships

- Personal Injuries Bar Association (PIBA)
- Professional Negligence Bar Association (PNBA)
- Association v Medical Accidents (AvMA)
- Pan European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers (PEOPIL)
- London Common Law and Commercial Bar Association (LCLCBA)

Publications

Clinical Negligence Law Blog

Asbestos Law Blog

International and Travel Law Blog

John-Paul is a regular contributor to chambers international and travel, asbestos and clinical negligence blogs. He writes in legal journals including the Personal Injury Law Journal and the Journal of Personal Injury Law

John-Paul lectures and writes articles frequently in those areas which he has a particular interest in.

Directories

John-Paul Swoboda has fantastic advocacy skills and is one of the lead barristers in asbestos disease litigation. – Chambers & Partners, 2026

John-Paul has a calm and reassuring manner with clients, and his written advice is through and clear. He is a competent and confident lawyer. – Chambers & Partners, 2026

He provides a forensic attention to detail when analysing evidence and brings real tactical insight to every case. A clear and confident advocate, he communicates complex issues easily. – Chambers & Partners, 2026

John-Paul is a definite go-to counsel on complex and difficult asbestos matters. He is extremely experienced and has worked on leading cases. – Chambers & Partners, 2026

He is very unflappable. He is good at getting the judged ear and putting arguments across. – Chambers & Partners, 2026

John-Paul is an all-round class act. Intelligent, calm and excellent with experts and clients. – Chambers & Partners, 2026

He is an excellent barrister. – Chambers & Partners, 2026

John-Paul is an excellent barrister who is extremely conscientious and is a safe pair of hands to help navigate through a complex case. He is also a very calming presence in difficult scenarios. – Chambers & Partners, 2026

John-Paul is a fantastic and diligent lawyer, who really grasps the key aspects of a claim and what is required to push a claim forward. – Chambers & Partners, 2026

He has an excellent eye for detail. He puts clients at their ease, and easy to work with. – Chambers & Partners, 2026

He is a highly skilled advocate, well prepared, thorough, tenacious and works effectively under pressure. – Legal 500, 2026

Extremely intelligent, thoughtful and creative barrister who is a real leader in the field. – Legal 500, 2026

He is a great barrister with knowledge in cross-border claims. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

He fights technical difficulties in a very diplomatic way. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

John-Paul is incredibly diligent, thorough, and well versed in the technical aspects. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

He is willing to take novel points and arguments and give balanced advice. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

John-Paul is always very well prepared and a superstar of the personal injury Bar. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

He is meticulous in his preparation and at his best when testing expert evidence. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

He is friendly and clients love him. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

John-Paul Swoboda is an excellent barrister. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

He deals with high-value complex medical negligence matters with an air of calmness and steely determination. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

John-Paul is a very experienced, highly capable and intelligent barrister. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

He is easy to work with. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

John-Paul Swoboda is calm and effective under pressure. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

He has an excellent manner with clients and experts alike. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

John-Paul Swoboda is very approachable. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

He is incredibly thoughtful and pragmatic in his advice and always made the client feel comfortable however difficult and personal the discussions. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

John-Paul is a measured tactician who always has the law at his fingertips. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

John-Paul is tactical, insightful and a highly skilled advocate. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

John-Paul is a fantastic barrister with vast experience in catastrophic injury work. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

John-Paul is a class act. He is an extremely persuasive advocate, meticulous in his preparation and very approachable. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

John-Paul is very well respected and knows his stuff. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

He has an eye for detail and a knack for making things happen even on the most difficult of cases. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

John-Paul is razor sharp, super bright and really marking himself out as a leader in this field. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

He is an outstanding junior in this area: extremely thorough, well prepared, excellent with clients and very calm on his feet in court. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

John-Paul is not afraid of difficult cases. He is extremely good with clients, has great tactical acumen and is an excellent speaker. – Legal 500, 2024

Experienced advocate who is highly diligent, quick to respond and very personable with clients. – Legal 500, 2024

John-Paul is a standout junior in the personal injury field, willing to take on challenging and difficult cases that many others would not be willing to. – Legal 500, 2023

A brave advocate who likes nothing more than to make new law, which is why he features in reported cases. Meticulous preparation and written work. Class. – Legal 500, 2023

Very thorough and impressive in conference with experts, particularly in relation to cardiac cases. He has a very good manner with clients and puts them at ease. – Legal 500, 2023

He is phenomenal and really pragmatic in his advice. – Chambers & Partners, 2022

He is a calm, quick-thinking advocate who has an impressive ability to identify the critical issues in any dispute. An impressively persuasive junior. – Legal 500, 2022

He is tenacious and a real expert in his field. – Chambers & Partners, 2021

Excellent attention to detail, sharp analysis of key issues and excellent manner with clients. – Legal 500, 2021

He goes from strength to strength, and is firmly in the ascendancy in this area. – Legal 500, 2021

Intellectually astute and both determined and dedicated. – Legal 500, 2021

His preparation is phenomenal; he works incredibly hard to prepare his cases so thoroughly. He's also always on hand to answer any queries and provide feedback, something which is a great comfort both to clients and instructing solicitors. He has a strong intellect and a genuine interest in these cases. – Chambers and Partners, 2020

*He has strong medical knowledge and is a firm fighter when matters get to cour*t – Legal 500, 2019

He provides a pragmatic approach to matters especially complex multi-defendant claims – Legal 500, 2019

He is a very solid barrister who has a good eye for detail, calming influence and enormous commitment and energy. – Legal 500, 2018

His expertise is in private international law matters specifically claims involving the Rome II, Athens and Montreal Conventions. – Legal 500, 2018

He delivers commercially focused, pragmatic and detailed advice. – Legal 500, 2017

Reported Cases

Witcomb v Keith Park Solicitors [2023] PNLR 20 (Court of Appeal; limitation in professional negligence matters. Led by Jeremy Hyam KC)

Keegan v Independent Insurance Co Ltd [2022] EWHC 1992 (QB) (Right to sue an insurer direct in asbestos claims)

Brooks v Zurich Insurance Plc [2022] EWHC 1170 (QB) (Right to sue an insurer direct in asbestos claims)

Witham v Steve Hill Ltd [2021] EWCA Civ 1312 (scope of Fatal Accidents Act, led by Steven Snowden KC)

Chouza v Martins & Ors [2021] EWHC 1669 (QB) (Fatal RTA);

Haggerty-Garton v ICI [2021] EWHC 2924 (QB) (Scots law in a fatal mesothelioma claim)

Witham v Steve Hill Ltd [2020] EWHC 299 (QB) (quantum in a fatal case, led by Steven Snowden KC)

Irani v Duchon [2019] EWCA Civ 1846 (appeal and cross-appeal relating to causation of loss, *Blamire* and *Smith v Manchester* awards)

Helm v Kenyon & Sons Ltd v Somewatch Ltd [2019] EWHC 1108 (QB) (appeal from show cause)

Cary v Vauxhall Motors Ltd [2019] EWHC 238 (QB) (first successful secondary exposure claim in England);

Irani v Duchon [2018] EWHC 2314 (QB) (an RTA claim where causation and quantification were in issue for an Indian national who faced deportation as a consequence of the negligence. To be heard by the Court of Appeal in 2019)

Mark v Universal Coatings and Services Ltd v Barrier Ltd [2018] EWHC 3206 (QB) (procedural issues in a silicosis case, led by Ronald Walker KC);

Stacey (Executrix of the Estate of Mr Perry) v Triplex Safety Glass Company Ltd [2017] EWHC 1945 (QB) (causation and quantification).

R (on the application of Maureen Speck) v HM Coroner for the District of York & ors [2016] EWHC 6 (Admin) (Judicial review from coronial proceedings)