

Niall Maclean

Call: 2008
maclean@12kbw.co.uk

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Personal Injury, Industrial Disease, Clinical Negligence, Fraud, Professional Negligence, Costs & Litigation Funding, Credit Hire, Insurance, Abuse, Product Liability, Inquests, Property, Property Damage



Niall is recognised as a leading junior in the current edition of Chambers & Partners where he is described as ***“a highly regarded personal injury junior”*** with ***“experience handling catastrophic and fatal injury claims on behalf of both defendants and claimants”***, and in the current edition of the Legal 500 which notes that he has ***“a real eye for detail”***. He is also ranked as a leading junior in Industrial Disease in the current editions of both directories.

Niall specialises in high value and complex personal injury, industrial disease and clinical negligence work, acting for claimants and defendants. He generally acts in cases valued in excess of £1 million, usually unled, and frequently against silks. He has a large and loyal client base, and receives instructions from leading solicitors, major insurers, the MIB, central government and local authorities.

His practice focuses on:

- catastrophic injuries and fatalities;
- serious spinal damage, including tetraplegia;
- brain injuries, including those characterised as subtle in nature;
- functional neurological disorders;
- all forms of pain syndromes, including chronic pain, complex regional pain syndrome, fibromyalgia and somatoform disorders (SSD);
- complex orthopaedic cases, including all forms of amputation;
- serious psychiatric conditions; and
- intentional torts including historic abuse.

Niall has an excellent track record at trials, joint settlement meetings and mediations.

He also has considerable appellate experience. He appeared in the Supreme Court (led) for the successful appellant in **Knauer v Ministry of Justice** [2016] UKSC 9, an important case on the quantification of future losses in fatal claims. He appeared in the Court of Appeal (unled) for the successful respondent in **Scott v Gavigan** [2016] All ER (D) 35 (Jun), a case concerning issues of foreseeability and legal causation in road traffic accidents.

Niall was one of the Attorney General's Junior Counsel to the Crown from 2015 to 2020.

Niall usually acts unled, but he is also comfortable acting as part of a litigation team and is frequently led by prominent silks. While adopting a thorough and rigorous approach to cases, Niall prides himself on being practical and approachable.

Qualifications & Awards

BVC (Outstanding; ranked 6th in year), BPP Law School

GDL (Commendation), City University

D.Phil. in Philosophy, Balliol College, University of Oxford

B.Phil. in Philosophy, Balliol College, University of Oxford

M.A. (First Class Honours) in Philosophy and Sociology, University of Glasgow

Lincoln's Inn: Megarry Scholarship, Buchanan Prize, Lord Denning Scholarship, Lord Bowen Scholarship, and Hardwicke Entrance Award.

Balliol College, University of Oxford: Snell Exhibition.

University of Glasgow: Faculty of Arts Prize for best overall performance in finals by a male student, plus two further subject prizes.

Appointments & Memberships

Member of the Attorney General's C Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown (2015 to 2020)

Personal Injuries Bar Association

Professional Negligence Bar Association

London Common Law and Commercial Bar Association

Background

Before coming to the Bar, Niall worked in academia and in public policy research for a leading Westminster think tank. He has published in the fields of health policy and medical ethics, and he retains an interest in the legal aspects of these areas.

Directories

Niall has an outstanding eye for detail and is very commercially aware and well liked by clients. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

Niall is very clear and methodical in the way he makes his arguments. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

Niall has comprehensive knowledge of asbestos claims and is a thorough and trusted advocate. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

He gives very detailed advice on complicated issues. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

Niall is an experienced barrister who is very knowledgeable and dependable. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

His advice on quantum matters is particularly perceptive and effective. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

Always immerses himself totally in a case – able to offer significant insights into the development of expert evidence. – Legal 500, 2025

A fantastic all-rounder. Niall has an amazing eye for detail, and is superb at assessing complex expert evidence on high-value cases. – Legal 500, 2024

Niall has a great eye for detail and a really strong strategic and commercial approach to claims, and he is a superb advocate. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

He really knows his law. He has his finger on the pulse on what the issues are in a case. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

Niall is an excellent advocate with an exceptional eye for detail. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

He gives invaluable advice and is very intellectual. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

His attention to detail stands out. He will look through quantum information and will find stuff people would miss. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

His advice is very detailed and thorough, a great help and provides us reassurance. He is quite analytical on looking at evidence we produce and making sure any issues are properly dealt with. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

He is absolutely forensic, tenacious and meticulous. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

Niall has extensive experience dealing with asbestos related claims and can safely be relied upon to give straightforward advice in this highly specialist field of work. – Legal 500, 2023

A real heavyweight intellectual who is very practical. He is delightful to work with. – Chambers & Partners, 2022

One of the most impressive barristers in asbestos claims, with a real eye for detail. – Legal 500, 2022

He has an incredible eye for detail and picks up on points that most others miss. – Chambers & Partners, 2021

An outstanding barrister and one of the leading juniors without a doubt in the field of claimant asbestos litigation. – Legal 500, 2021

He's excellent with clients and is technically very strong. He's a great choice of counsel for when you need to take a tough stance either on paper or in court. He's proven himself to be a very good advocate. – Chambers & Partners 2020

He's extremely bright and perspicacious, and is not afraid to take on a difficult case. He provides clear, concise and practical advice. – Chambers & Partners, 2020

His analytical approach to cases is very impressive. He is also very thorough and has great attention to detail. –

Chambers & Partners, 2020

He has built up an impressive knowledge of the law relating to asbestos-related cases – Legal 500, 2019

A very articulate and measured barrister, and a tough opponent. – Chambers & Partners, 2019

He is a fantastic lawyer. – Chambers & Partners, 2019

He is highly experienced, knowing all the ins and outs of advancing tricky cases. – Legal 500, 2018

He delivers clear objective advice and represents clients' interests fiercely. – Legal 500, 2018

He has a good practical outlook and provides sensible advice. – Legal 500, 2018

Extremely proficient and very good with clients as he has got an exceptionally kind and calm manner. – Chambers & Partners, 2018

Incredibly thorough and comprehensive in his advice and effective in court. – Chambers & Partners, 2018

He has a formidable intellect, which he rigorously applies on behalf of mesothelioma sufferers – Legal 500, 2017

He provides practical advice on complex problems. – Legal 500, 2017

He sets out the entire range of options clearly, leaving clients with no confusion as to what the possible outcomes are. He is fantastic from an evidence-gathering point of view. – Chambers & Partners, 2017

His attention to detail is excellent and he's willing to fight fiercely when necessary. – Chambers & Partners, 2017

His advice is of an exceptionally high standard; no challenge is too large. – Legal 500, 2016

A rising star who is incredibly personable and deals with matters with admirable thoroughness. – Legal 500, 2015