

Ronald Walker KC

Call: 1962

Silk: 1983

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Professional Negligence, Insurance, Construction, Personal Injury, Industrial Disease, Health & Safety, Mediation, Arbitration, Group Litigation

JUDICAL APPOINTMENTS

Recorder 1986 | Deputy High Court Judge 1993

Ronald Walker K.C. has extensive recent experience of Group Litigation and disease cases, having acted for the DECC in the VWF litigation (AB v British Coal Corporation and others), subsequently in the Phurnacite litigation (Jones v DECC) and in the ongoing Coke Workers litigation (Pearce v DBEI). He practises mainly in the areas of Professional Negligence, Insurance, Building and Construction, and Personal Injury.

He has appeared in a number of leading cases including South Australia Asset Management Co v York Montague Ltd (SAAMCO), Jameson v CEGB, Bryce v Swan Hunter Group, Rahman v Arearose Ltd, Darby v National Trust, Watson v British Boxing Board of Control, Greene Wood & McLean v Templeton Insurance Ltd, Copley v Lawn, Wilkin-Shaw v Fuller, Risk v Rose Bruford College, Jamesd v White Lion Hotel.

He is an accredited mediator (ADR Group), a TECBAR accredited adjudicator, and acts as an arbitrator.

Professional Negligence

Ronald Walker K.C. regularly acts, for both claimants and defendants, in professional negligence actions, in particular involving architects, valuers, accountants, brokers and solicitors.

He represented one of the successful appellants in the House of Lords in SAAMCO and has appeared in many reported cases, including the leading Court of Appeal cases of

- *Goose v Wilson Sandford*
- *Greene Wood & McLean v Templeton Insurance Ltd*
- *Holt v Payne Skillington*
- *Merrett v Babb*
- *Knapp v Ecclesiastical Insurance*

He an accredited TECBAR adjudicator and mediator.

Insurance

Ronald Walker K.C. regularly acts for leading insurance companies, and also for insureds, in disputes over policy interpretation, policy avoidance and in subrogated claims.

Reported cases in these areas which he has appeared include

- *Exchange Theatres v Iron Trades Insurance Co*
- *Greene Wood & McLean v Templeton Insurance Ltd*
- *Merrett v Babb*
- *Knapp v Ecclesiastical Insurance*
- *T & N Ltd v Royal & Sun Alliance*
- *Blackwell v Girling Insurance*
- *HIH Casualty & General Insurance v JLT Risk Solutions*
- *United Marine Aggregates v GM Welding Ltd*
- *Keltbray Environmental Ltd v QBE Insurance*

Construction

Ronald Walker K.C. regularly advises in construction disputes of all kinds and appears in litigation and arbitration.

Important reported cases in which he has appeared include

- *United Marine Aggregates Ltd v GM Welding Ltd* (claim for fire damage involving interpretation of the construction contract between the building owner and the maintenance contractor, and the interpretation of warranties in the latter's PL policy)
- *Cleightonhills v Bembridge Marine Ltd* (action by building owner against design and build contractor and sub-contractors in respect of design defects leading to catastrophic personal injury)
- *CA Blackwell (Contracts) Ltd v Gerling General Insurance Company* (Court of Appeal decision on interpretation of a Contractors All Risk Policy, involving the interpretation of a no DE3 type exclusion)
- *Blue Circle Dartford Estates Ltd v J Jarvis Ltd* (decision on powers of court to stay arbitration proceedings. This application to the court was made in the context of a multi-party construction arbitration).
- *John Roberts Architects Ltd v Parkcare Homes (No 2) Ltd* (decision on interpretation of adjudication provisions in construction contract).
- *Surrey Heath Borough Council v Lovell Construction and Haden Young* (leading Court of Appeal case on insurance arrangements under JCT standard forms).

He is an accredited TECBAR adjudicator and mediator.

Personal Injury

Ronald Walker K.C. appears regularly, for both claimants and defendants, in cases involving brain injury and other injuries of utmost severity, and in disease litigation, including asbestos diseases, respiratory diseases, lung, bladder and skin cancers, HAVS and deafness

Reported cases include

- *Armstrong v British Coal Corporation (VWF)*
- *Jones v DECC (Phurnacite litigation)*
- *Pearce v DECC (Coke Workers litigation)*
- *Bryce v Swan Hunter Group*
- *Rahman v Arearose Ltd*
- *Ballantine v Newalls Insulation*
- *Bernadone v Pall Mall Services Ltd*
- *Ellis v Bristol City Council*
- *Dalling v Heale Ltd*
- *Divia v Toyo Tire & Rubber Co Ltd*
- *Darby v National Trust*

- *Watson v British Boxing Board of Control*
- *Huntley v Simmonds*
- *Webster v The Ridgeway School*
- *Wilkin-Shaw v Fuller*,
- *Risk v Rose Bruford College*
- *James v White Lion Hotel Ltd*

Industrial Disease

Ronald Walker K.C. appears regularly, for both claimants and defendants, in industrial disease litigation, including asbestos diseases, respiratory diseases, lung, bladder and skin cancers, HAVS and deafness

Reported cases in these areas include

- *Armstrong v British Coal Corporation (VWF)*
- *Jones v DECC (Phurnacite litigation)*
- *Pearce v DECC (Coke Workers litigation)*
- *Bryce v Swan Hunter Group*
- *Ballantine v Newalls Insulation*
- *Turner & Newall Ltd v Royal & Sun Alliance & Smith*

Health & Safety

Ronald Walker K.C. regularly acts for defendants charged with health and safety offences of all kinds, including manslaughter. He has recently appeared in the Crown Court in several such cases, including:

- *R v Menna* (prosecution of care home proprietor arising out of the unlawful killing of an employee)
- *R v Collier* (manslaughter prosecution against a builder arising out of the death of a child)
- *R v Abele View Ltd* (prosecution of care home proprietor arising out of death of a resident)
- *R v Gokani and Appleton* (prosecution of care home proprietors arising out of the death of a resident)
- *R v Alpha Schools Ltd* (prosecution of a school arising out of injury to a contractor undertaking construction work)

Mediation

Ronald Walker K.C. is an accredited mediator and TECBAR adjudicator. He regularly mediates and adjudicates in disputes of all kinds within the areas of his practice.

Appointments & Memberships

Accredited mediator and TECBAR adjudicator

PNBA; TECBAR; LCLCBA; PIBA

Directories

He is unbelievably experienced – an exceptional barrister. – Chambers & Partners, 2021

An exceptional barrister. – Chambers & Partners, 2020

He has superb analytical skills. – Chambers & Partners, 2019

A great advocate and strategist. – Chambers & Partners, 2018

Superb analysis and laser-like focus on the key issues. The safest pair of hands you can imagine. Pleasant, polite and professional. – Chambers & Partners, 2018

He's a go-to because he has a thorough understanding of the issues involved and the complexities of industrial disease. Great at the big picture. – Chambers & Partners, 2017

For a QC he is amazingly accessible and provides straightforward advice, which is highly reassuring for the client. He leaves no stone unturned and considers everything. – Chambers & Partners, 2017

Very experienced. – Legal 500, 2017

Practical and methodical. – Legal 500, 2016

He will turn things around quickly and writes advice in a clear and understandable fashion. – Chambers & Partners, 2016

He has excellent advocacy skills and is well respected by the judiciary. A truly brilliant barrister. – Legal 500, 2015

Publications

Contributor *Asbestos: Law & Litigation*, Sweet & Maxwell, 2019 (Chapter; Insurance)