

Stephen Worthington KC

Call: 1976
Silk: 2006

worthington@12kbw.co.uk



AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Personal Injury, International & Travel, Insurance, Arbitration, Mediation

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

Recorder: 2002 - Present

The Chambers Directory 2025 ranked Stephen as a "Senior Statesperson" in personal injury and said "He's very practical in dealing with cases. He takes a firm but realistic position...He's very nice as well as phenomenally clever".

The Legal 500 for 2025 ranked Stephen as a Leading Silk in personal injury and said that he has a "superb attention to detail, very practical and down to earth. Absolutely excellent at mediations and settlement meetings."

His work involves very high value catastrophic injury claims principally involving brain and spinal injuries.

He also has a particular specialism in motor insurance law for which he is considered to be one of the UK's pre-eminent lawyers.

He has recent experience of cases in the Channel Islands.

He has been a Recorder since 2002 and he is a Bencher of Gray's Inn.

Personal Injury

His areas of expertise include:

- Severe brain injury
- Quadraplegia and Paraplegia
- Serious psychiatric injury
- Fatal accidents involving high earners

He has specialist knowledge of Periodical Payments and the impact of statutory funding.

He also lectures regularly on personal injury issues to solicitors and insurers.

Qualifications & Awards

MA (Cantab) Trinity College, Cambridge (2:1)

Atkin Prize : Gray's Inn (1976)

Appointments & Memberships

Recorder : 2002 – Present

Chairman of the Law Reform Committee of the Bar Council: 2011 – 2015

Director of Bar Mutual: 2005 – 2009

Committee Member of the London Common Law and Commercial Bar Association: 2003 – 2005

Personal Injuries Bar Association

Professional Negligence Bar Association

Cases

McCracken v Smith & MIB [2013] EWHC 3620 (QB) – ex turpi causa

Wilkinson v Fitzgerald [2013] 1 WLR 1776 – the construction of section 151 (8) of the Road Traffic Act 1988

Carswell v Secretary of State for Transport & MIB [2010] EWHC 3230 (QB) – the construction of the Untraced Drivers Agreement

Phillips v Rafiq [2007] PIQR P304 – the meaning of “claimant” in the Uninsured Drivers Agreement

Watson v British Boxing Board of Control [2001] QB 1134 – the duty of care owed to a boxer by the regulatory body

Heil v Rankin [2001] QB 272 – the proper method of calculation of general damages for personal injury

Blue Circle v Ministry of Defence [1998] 3 All ER 385 – the calculation of damages resulting from nuclear pollution