

# Tom Vonberg

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## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Personal Injury, Clinical Negligence, International & Travel, Insurance, Product Liability, Professional Negligence, Fraud

Tom is highly regarded for his expertise in matters involving serious injury, fatality, defective products, clinical and professional negligence, insurance coverage disputes and damages claims involving multiple parties.

In injury work, the latest editions of the legal directories highlight that he is ***“well known for his handling of high-value personal injury claims”*** with ***“a great knowledge of brain injury claims”***.

In product liability and group claims he is recognised as ***“adept at handling product liability cases”***, ***“able to simplify complex technical issues”*** and with ***“experience of appearing in multi-party litigation”***.

Tom is repeatedly recommended for his ability to ***“build an instant rapport with clients”***, his ***“commercial attitude and impeccable manner with clients”***, his willingness to collaborate with instructing solicitors to whom ***“he is hugely responsive and approachable”*** and for his court room advocacy where he described as ***“a highly impressive advocate”*** and ***“very robust in court.”***

Other recent feedback in the directories includes that he is ***“organised and meticulous in his attention to detail”***, ***“calm under pressure with a logical approach to cases and a great client manner”*** and ***“excellent on points of law and strong with clients”***.

Tom lives in North Yorkshire and London. He travels nationwide to represent his clients. Before coming to the independent bar, Tom was a barrister at the leading Cayman Island law firm Walkers Global.

## Clinical Negligence

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Tom has experience of serious injuries in a clinical context. He has spoken to AvMA and to firms in-house on the law around patient consent, material contribution and acquired brain injuries.

He has trial advocacy experience on both the claimant and defendant side.

Some examples of current and recent work appear below:

Acted for the insurers of a nightclub following a fight in which the claimant struck the kerb after a single punch by a doorman. The dispute surrounded the causation of catastrophic brain injury as between the fight and the subsequent surgery. Led by Rob Weir KC.

Acted for a claimant who within hours of suffering a catastrophic stroke was negligently treated during brain surgery at

hospital. Complex issues around divisibility of injury and care requirements in light of the decision in [\*Reaney v University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust & Anr\*](#) [2015] EWCA Civ 1119. Led by Rob Weir KC during the litigation, acted as sole junior at JSM. Instructed by Hudgell Solicitors, Leeds.

Acted for a personal trainer who underwent incorrect lower limb facial repair (as opposed to fasciotomy) resulting in crippling injuries. The claim settled two weeks before a 5-day High Court trial. Led by Rob Weir KC. Instructed by Irwin Mitchell LLP, London.

Acted for a female firearms officer in which a postpartum sphincter injury was not repaired resulting in incontinence and an inability to return to work. The claim settled following exchange of joint reports. Instructed by Pattinson & Brewer, London.

Acted in the High Court for a professional ballerina who sustained division of a tendon during bunion surgery. Instructed by Irwin Mitchell LLP, London.

Acting for defendant clinics in various cosmetic surgery claims including bariatric surgery and breast surgery. Instructed by Kennedys Law LLP.

Acting for the defendant trust at the interim payment hearing for a child who suffered profound hypoxic ischaemic brain damage and four limb dystonic cerebral palsy. Instructed by Capsticks, Leeds.

Acted for a protected party who sustained pressure sores following a prolonged period of negligence. The settlement, which included a claim for 24-hour nursing care, was approved in the High Court and an anonymity order made in view of the decision in [\*JXMX v Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust\*](#) [2015] EWCA Civ 96.

Acted for an 8-year-old girl in her High Court claim against the hospital trust for mismanagement of acute promyelocytic leukaemia and sepsis.

Acted for the NHS Trust in the defence of a claim following an alleged failure to follow a "*nil by mouth*" direction resulting in a patient fatality after she aspirated on her own vomit. Instructed by Kennedys Law LLP, London.

Acting for various claimants in missed diagnosis claims including breast cancer, rectal adenocarcinoma, peritoneal cancer, endocarditis and streptococcus sanguinis and left frontal glioblastoma. A number of these claims concern fatalities.