

Tom Vonberg

Call: 2004
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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.

Insurance

Tom has been instructed in all manner of insurance coverage disputes.

He undertakes work on points of discrete insurance law but also frequently where the underlying claims concern personal injury or professional liability.

The 2024 edition of Chambers & Partners recognises his experience of insurance coverage disputes relating to

personal injury claims.

Tom is well used to handling cases where there are issues of dishonesty in relation to the policy.

Specific examples of cases he has worked on include the following:

Acted in a successful appeal to the Financial Ombudsman Service against the insurer's refusal of indemnity under a household policy on grounds of non-disclosure. The underlying claim against the policyholder was as an occupier of premises where the claimant's injuries had led to an upper limb amputation. Instructed by Wilkins Beaumont Suckling, London.

Acting for Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance in a pre-action disclosure application for documents against a third-party insurer following avoidance of a policy of motor insurance. Led by Rob Weir KC. Winston Hunter KC for the third-party.

Instructed to defend a claim by a bar owner for business interruption flooding. The claim was pleaded at more than £1m and settled, following interim hearings, for £20,000 costs inclusive.

Acting for a construction company in the High Court defending a Part 20 claim following property damage at a commercial premises.

Advising the Insurance Corporation of the Channel Islands as to the allocation of damages in a negligence claim against the local authority following child abuse. The claim was presented for £238 million and is thought to be the largest personal injury claim in British history. Issues concerned occurrence of damage, policy trigger wording and aggregation. Led by Andrew Burns KC. News item [here](#).

Appeared for the claimant in an action to join a party out of time at the compulsion of an Article 75 insurer pursuant to Clause 14.1 of the Uninsured Drivers' Agreement 1999. Leading KC for the insurer.

Acting for a family against their home insurer following contamination by penicillium aspergillus spores which had not been eradicated by contractors after a sewage escape. Claim included a direct action for breaches of ICOBS (Insurance Conduct Business Sourcebook).

Currently acting for a former premiership and international rugby player against his income protection provider regarding an indemnity dispute following the diagnosis of early onset dementia.

Acted for a former premiership rugby player against his mutual insurer regarding an indemnity dispute following the player's retirement on account of injury. The claim settled for the full value of the policy amounting to 8 years final salary earnings.

Acted for a former British Lions rugby player in his COVID-19 pay dispute with an Australian National Rugby League club over the terms of his coaching contract.