

## 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 a highly regarded barrister in serious and catastrophic injury. He is also respected for his handling of matters arising from fatality, defective products, clinical and professional negligence and in damages claims involving multiple parties.

Tom is comfortable advising in and presenting the most challenging cases at Court and he has worked alongside some of the country's best-known lawyers in his areas of work.

Over the last twenty years of practice, Tom has been involved in many technical and high value cases both on his own account and with leading KC's.

His work has included claims on behalf of both adults and children for brain or spinal injury, as well as complex orthopedic injury and polytrauma. He is also involved in litigation against healthcare providers for clinical negligence as well as frequently acting against producers of defective products both in the UK and overseas.

Tom routinely deals with difficult liability and quantum issues, including those arising out of group litigation, and he is adept at working with expert witnesses.

Tom is known for his ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with professional and lay clients and for the strength of his written and courtroom advocacy on their behalf.

He travels all over the country to meet and act for his clients.

Tom is identified as a leading barrister in the legal directories Chambers and Partners and Legal 500. The 2024 editions report that:

***"Tom is liked by the clients and highly regarded for his technical skill and reliable advice. His eye for detail really stands out, and he is very robust in court."***

*“He is well known for his handling of high-value personal injury claims.”*

*“Tom is adept at handling product liability cases” and has “experience of appearing in multi-party litigation.”*

Recent previous directory entries have described Tom as:

*“A highly approachable and impressive advocate”, who is “calm under pressure with a logical approach to cases and a great client manner”, “Excellent on points of law and advice, strong with clients and very approachable and accessible”, “able to simplify complex technical issues”, “Very good on his feet”, “Bright and good on tactical issues”, “pragmatic with an excellent eye for detail”, “very good with clients”, “organised and meticulous in his attention to detail” and who has a “commercial attitude and impeccable manner with clients”.*

Before coming to the independent bar, Tom was a barrister at the leading offshore law firm Walkers Global.

## **Insurance**

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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.