

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.

Product Liability

Tom specialises in product liability claims, including where there are multiple parties and jurisdictional issues.

Chambers & Partners identifies that Tom ***“has experience of appearing in multiparty litigation and he is also adept at handling product liability cases.”***

Tom is comfortable working with liability and causation experts on the difficult technical issues which often arise in such claims.

Interesting recent cases include the following:

Acted for the Defendant in claims regarding the defective mass production of glass at a factory in China which resulted in product failure. Advised and appeared at Court in the defence of claims and in the dispute, which involved complex

engineering evidence, between the manufacturer and UK supplier. Instructed by Keoghs LLP.

Acted successfully for Claimants against NutriBullet LLC and the parent company based in the United States. The claims were for burn injuries following boiling liquid expanding vapor explosions – the circumstances of which mirror multiple suits in the US. The United Kingdom claims settled at JSM three weeks before the 5-day liability and quantum trial. Instructed by Tim Annett at Irwin Mitchell, Sheffield.

Currently acting for the Claimants in a group claim against the Californian-based manufacturer of cochlear implants which are defective on account of fluid ingress into the implant body. Parallel litigation is underway in the US. Tom is instructed by Irwin Mitchell LLP and the claims are Defended in the UK by Pinsent Masons LLP.

Acting in multiple “vaping” claims against an e-cigarette seller following the explosion of Lithium-ion batteries. The claims involve electrical engineering expert evidence and have been brought under The Consumer Rights Act 2015. Instructed by the product liability team at Irwin Mitchell LLP and in a connected claim brought by Hugh James LLP. News items [here](#) and [here](#).

Advising claimants regarding methylisothiazolinone (MIT) chemicals contained in cosmetic products and the liability of producers under the Consumer Protection Act 1987. Instructed by Leigh Day, London.

Acted for multiple claimants who were supplied a bodily piercing aftercare solution contaminated with pseudomonas aeruginosa. Claims have been issued against the supplier and producer under the Consumer Protection Act 1987.

Tom has acted in multiple property damage and fatality claims arising from defective products and construction issues. He was instructed as part of the legal team for the Defendant insurers following the Buncefield fire in 2005. Since then, he has acted for Claimants and Defendants in a range of cases.

Most recently he has been instructed to act following a biosolid explosion at the Avonmouth water treatment works, Bristol which tragically caused four fatalities. He has also concluded a long running claim by a family whose house was burned to the ground and in which they sustained modest burn injuries when a defective hoverboard caught fire whilst charging. The claim was brought on the basis of breaches of Sections 9 and 10 of the Consumer Rights Act 2015. Quantum for substantial property damage was defended until very shortly before the trial. News item [here](#).