

William Audland KC

Call: 1992

Silk: 2015

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

International & Travel, Aviation, Personal Injury, Clinical Negligence, Fraud, Sport, Mediation

William is ranked as a leading silk in the major directories in all his principal areas of practice - international and travel, personal injury, clinical negligence and sports law - and specialises in cross-border claims which combine these areas of expertise. He represents both claimants and defendants, and has a growing practice as a mediator. William has been shortlisted for 'Personal Injury Silk of the Year' at the Legal 500 Bar Awards 2025.

Sport

Sports law has always played a central part in William's personal injury, clinical negligence and international law practice. He is a keen sportsman himself. He acts for claimants and defendants, including in high-profile claims in football and rugby, and his practice covers a wide variety of other sports such as skiing, water-skiing, sailing, cycling, scuba diving. He is currently instructed by the Rugby Football League and the British Amateur Rugby League Association in the concussive brain injury litigation.

Ongoing and recent cases include:

Football:

- William is currently instructed by several professional players whose careers have been affected by medical negligence.
- William acted for the defendant in a claim for loss of career earnings brought by former Premier League goal keeper Carlo Cudicini after a motorcycle accident.
- William has advised the PFA in relation to personal injury matters.

Rugby League: William is retained by the RFL and BARLA to lead the defence of a claim being brought against it by a large number of former RFL professionals who allege that they suffered a range of neurodegenerative injuries as a result of negligent governance of the professional game from the 1960s to date.

Cycling:

- ***Dougan v Bike Events Ltd*** (High Court) (Manchester District Registry) (11 June 2021) (HHJ Platts). This claim for catastrophic brain injuries arose out of an accident which occurred in the course of a well-known cycling sportive called the Manchester 100. The organiser was sued for alleged failures in respect of risk assessment, signage and marshalling. William represented the successful defendant: the claim was dismissed at a trial and

the claimant's application for permission to appeal was dismissed by the Court of Appeal.

- A High Court claim for catastrophic spinal injuries resulting from an accident when the claimant – a keen amateur cyclist out cycling with friends – fell when cycling along a shared path for cyclists and pedestrians forming part of the A50 highway and over a central raised white line separating the two lanes of user. The claim alleged negligent design and construction (in the 1990s) of the pathway; negligent failure to remove the raised white line; and/or failure to warn the line was slippery when wet. The significance of this case was that there are hundreds of miles of such shared paths with raised white lines up and down the country. The claim was defended by William and settled for a modest sum.

Diving:

- A claim for injury and damage suffered by a stroke said to have resulted from a near drowning accident when the claimant was using the second defendant's patented diving system while on holiday in the Caribbean. The stroke occurred many months after the claimant experienced breathing difficulties under water. The claim involved different laws (UK, Californian, and St Lucian) in relation to different defendants and different aspects of the claim, and issues of double insurance. The claim was settled.

Skiing: William has acted in a wide variety of cross-border skiing accident claims arising out of negligent skiing, falls arising out of negligent teaching/guiding and negligent boot/binding fitting and the like.

Awards

Nominated for PI Silk of the year 2023 by both Chambers & Partners and Legal 500.

Award for Personal Injury/Clinical Negligence Junior Barrister of the Year in 2013

Memberships

Personal Injuries Bar Association

Professional Negligence Bar Association

European Circuit of the Bar

Pan-European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers

London Common Law and Commercial Bar Association

Directories

In Travel & International law William is ranked as a Leading Silk in Band 1 by Chambers & Partners, and as a Leading Silk in Aviation and Travel by Who's Who Legal.

In Personal Injury William is ranked as a Leading Silk in Tier 1 by Legal 500, and Band 1 by Chambers & Partners.

In Clinical Negligence William is ranked as a Leading Silk in Band 3 by Chambers & Partners and Tier 4 by Legal 500.

Publications

Personal Injury Schedules: Calculating Damages (Bloomsbury Professional) 4th ed.; Contributing Editor.

Cases

Nicholls v Mapfre; Woodford v Mapfre; Sedgwick v Mapfre [2024] EWCA Civ 7128. Important conjoined cases which determined that Spanish Penalty Interest was recoverable in personal injury claims brought in this jurisdiction where the applicable substantive law is Spanish law. The appeal determined that the penalty interest provisions are a matter of substantive not procedural law as a matter of EU law under Rome II and that it was recoverable. William led the appeals for Mapfre.

Ashton v Eurolife [2023] EWHC 2540 (KB). A High Court claim for catastrophic spinal injuries resulting from an accident when the claimant – a keen amateur road cyclist on a cycling holiday in Greece – collided at speed with a stationary car parked at the side of a rural road in the shade. The claim against the insurer of the driver of the car, which alleged breach of Greek Civil Code and Traffic Codes – the applicable law being Greek law under Rome II – was dismissed at trial after the Defendant's Greek law expert evidence was accepted. William represented the successful defendant.

Cooper v The Freedom Travel Group Limited [2022] EWCA Civ 1557: An important decision for the package travel industry following the liquidation of Thomas Cook concerning the limits of liability of a credit card company under the CCA 1974 where a package holiday was bought on the credit card belonging to the spouse of the claimant, but the claimant herself was not herself a party to the credit agreement. The claimant was not a “debtor” for the purposes of sections 75 and 189 of the 1974 Act.

X v Kuoni Travel [2021] UKSC 34 (in the Supreme Court) and EU:C:2021:213 (in the CJEU) concerning the liability in contract and pursuant to the Package Travel Directive 90/314 and the 1992 Pack Travel Regulations of a tour operator for a rape committed by a hotel employee abroad.

Dougan v Bike Events Ltd (High Court) (Manchester District Registry) (11 June 2021) (HHJ Platts). This claim for catastrophic brain injuries arose out of an accident which occurred in the course of a well-known cycling sportive called the Manchester 100. The organiser was sued for alleged failures in respect of risk assessment, signage and marshalling. William represented the successful defendant: the claim was dismissed at a trial and the claimant's application for permission to appeal was dismissed by the Court of Appeal.

Collins v Gotz [2021] EWHC 3282 (QB). Liability only trial.

Scumaci v Martin [2021] EWHC 2833 (QB). Liability only appeal.

Mustard v Flower [2021] EWHC 846 (QB), an important decision concerning the lack of a need to plead fundamental dishonesty.

Swift v Carpenter [2020] EWCA Civ 1295 in which the Court of Appeal delivered a landmark decision overturning *Roberts v Johnstone* and changing the law in relation to the quantification of claims for the capital cost of accommodation.

Swift v Carpenter [2020] EWCA Civ 165, an important decision concerning the unavailability of protective costs orders in private civil litigation.

Farah v Abdullahi & others [2020] EWHC 825 (QB), a trial of liability in a claim for catastrophic brain injuries involving interesting issues of factual and legal causation, as well as identification.

Mustard v Flower [2019] EWHC 2623 (QB), a decision concerning the admissibility of covert recordings of medical examinations and also the inadmissibility of lengthy Part 35 questions of experts which amounted to cross-examination.

Swift v Carpenter [2018] EWHC 2060 (QB). An assessment of damages in a claim for catastrophic injuries suffered by a trans-tibial amputee. The three-day appeal relating to the *Roberts v Johnstone* issues is due to be heard by the Court of Appeal in late June 2020.

Pinkus v Direct Line [2018] EWHC 1671 (QB). William represented the successful defendant in this case in which a claimant's claim for catastrophic injuries (originally alleged to include a subtle brain injury, but later alleged to arise out of serious psychiatric injury) was dismissed in its entirety with costs for fundamental dishonesty.

Noble Caledonia Ltd v Air Niugini Ltd No 1 [2017] EWHC 1095 (QB) and ***No 2*** [2017] EWHC 1393 (QB) concerning an application to strike out a claim on the grounds of jurisdiction and the invalidity of service in the jurisdiction (on a general sales agent domiciled here), and a cross application to serve the proceedings on the defendant out of the jurisdiction. An appeal on all issues was to be heard by the Court of Appeal in January 2018, but the case was compromised shortly before the hearing.