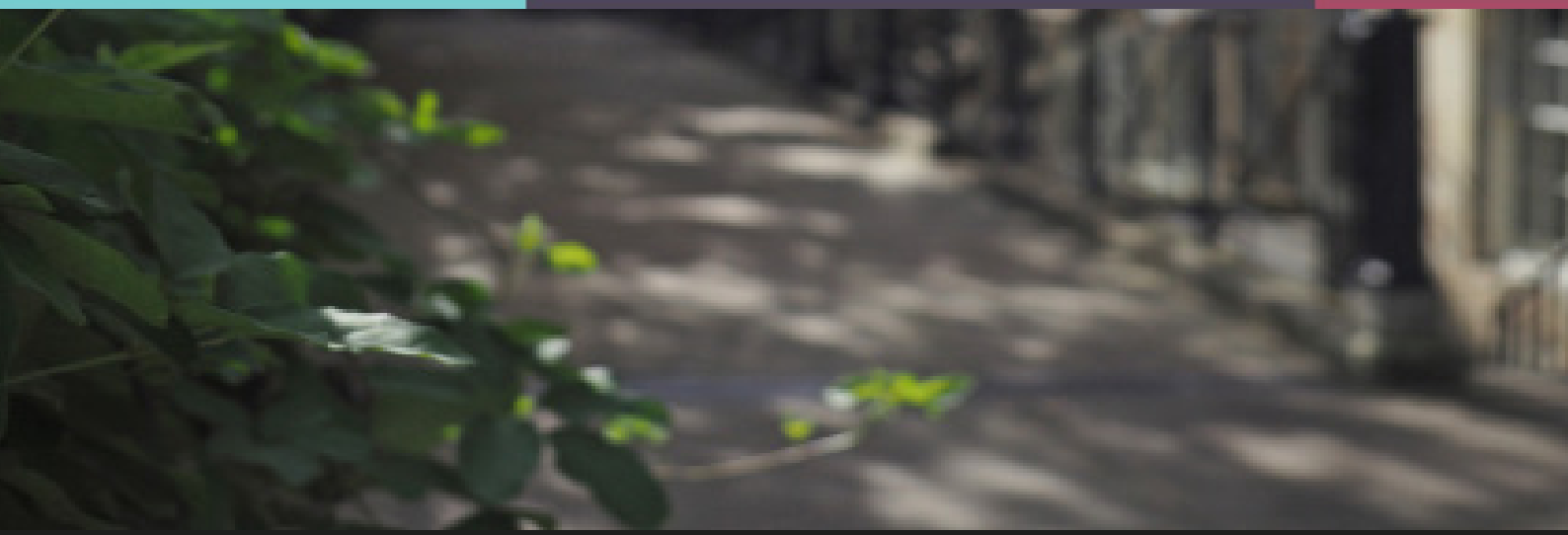




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King's Bench Walk

REVIEW OF THE YEAR DECEMBER 2020



A message from our Head of Chambers

2020 has been far from a normal year, but there is no doubt that in many respects it has been business as usual at 12KBW.

Members have thrown themselves into dealing with the remote world that we have all come to know (if perhaps not love). 12KBW's barristers have appeared in remote hearings, from the Court of Appeal to small claims in the County Courts. Joint settlement meetings and mediations have been conducted by an array of remote platforms and technology that, just a year ago, many of us did not know existed.

So, notwithstanding the global pandemic, it has been an exciting and successful year for 12KBW. Members continue to conduct outstanding work at all levels of court in our various practice areas. This work has been recognised by the awards, listings and appointments that have followed this year.

We are all hoping for a return to something at least resembling normality next year, and will hope to be able to engage in some more in-person interaction with our clients and colleagues. In the meantime, we take a look back at 2020 in our first 12 King's Bench Walk retrospective.

We wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year and hope for a brighter 2021.

Paul Russell QC
Head of Chambers



2020 in Court...

I2KBW appeared in Courts and Tribunals throughout the year remotely or in person. These are some of our highlights of a memorable year.

- **January:** Martina Murphy represented the Respondent in the first case to appoint a registered intermediary for vulnerable witnesses in the Employment Tribunal. Read more [here](#).
- **February:** The High Court considered some tricky dependency issues in *Witham v Hill* with Steven Snowden QC and John Paul Swoboda appearing for the successful Claimant. Read more [here](#).
- **March:** Marcus Dignum QC finished his career as a junior, before talking silk, with a successful appearance in the High Court in *MacDonald v Burton*, a case about the recording of medico-legal examinations. Read more [here](#).
- **April:** Andy Roy appeared in the Court of Appeal in *Ho v Adekun* (No. 2). He is off to the Supreme Court in this important case about the application of QOCS when setting off costs. Read more [here](#).
- **May:** Carolyn D'Souza and Andrew Watson appeared for the Appellant in the EAT in the long-running *Banerjee v Royal Bank of Canada* whistleblowing dispute.
- **June:** Harry Steinberg QC and Gemma Scott appeared for the unsuccessful Claimant in *Bannister v Freemans* about what amounts to a material contribution in low dose mesothelioma cases. Read more [here](#).
- **July:** Harry Steinberg QC and Kate Boakes persuaded the Court of Appeal to take the unusual step of re-opening an appeal under CPR 52.30 in *Head v Culver Heating*. The appeal was heard in December and judgment is awaited. Read more [here](#).
- **September:** Joel Kendall appeared in the high-profile whistleblowing and unfair dismissal case of *Heslop v Oxford Said Business School*, a case widely reported, including in The Times [here](#).
- **October:** The biggest personal injury case of the year was, of course, *Swift v Carpenter* in which William Audland QC and Richard Viney appeared for the Defendant. Read more [here](#).
- **November:** The Attorney General gave its opinion in *X v Kuoni*. The parties now await judgment from the CJEU. William Audland QC, Nina Ross and Achas Burin act for the Defendant. Read more [here](#).
- **December:** Steven Snowden QC appeared for more than 1,000 of the core participants in the ongoing Infected Blood Inquiry. Read more [here](#).

Away from Court

I2KBW's stable of silks expanded with the appointment of Marcus Dignum (in March) and the announcement, in December, of Patrick Vincent's impending appointment in 2021. Meanwhile, the junior end expanded as all four pupils, Tim Goodwin (who joined us from a Tier 1 employment law firm), Sam Cuthbert, Megan Griffiths and Cressida Mawdesley-Thomas, accepted tenancy in the summer. We welcome our new pupil Richard Ive, who joined us in October.

At the start of the year, we were joined by Lor'elle Mitchell, our new Marketing & Events Manager, who quickly had to pivot Chambers to online events in a matter of weeks. We are grateful for her brilliant work in organising a series of webinars throughout the year, many of which can be viewed here.

The I2KBW trophy cabinet continued to expand. Patrick Vincent was named Chambers & Partners Personal Injury Junior of the Year, in a fitting end to his career as a junior, and Tristan Whigham secured Clerk of the Year from Legal 500. Chambers' achievements have been recognised with continued success in the legal directories, including new and expanded listings in personal injury, industrial disease, employment, travel, and aviation. James Beeton was named as the rising star of the personal injury world by Legal 500. Max Archer was identified by Legal 500 as a rising star in both aviation and travel. While Chambers & Partners recognised Aliyah Akram as the up-and-coming star in industrial disease.

It has also been a good year for I2KBW representation in the wider profession. Stephen Snowden QC was elected Chair of the Personal Injury Bar Association in April and Martina Murphy was re-elected as Secretary of the Employment Law Bar Association in February. Additionally, John-Paul Swoboda and Spencer Turner were both elected to roles within the Bar Council. Spencer was also appointed as a Panel Member of the England Boxing National Disciplinary Panel. Daniel Sokol was appointed Chair of the Metropolitan Police Research Ethics Committee in October.

On the charities front, Chambers put up a strong showing in the Tour de Law bicycle race, clocking up over 2,500km of distance covered and raising over £1,500 for breast cancer research. I2KBW also continued its tradition of participation at the Blenheim triathlon and in the London Legal Walk.



In memory of Lincoln Crawford



Chambers was very sad to learn of the death of our former member of Chambers Lincoln Crawford, who died on 12 July 2020 after a short illness, at the age of 75. An obituary in *The Times* described Lincoln as “one of the first prominent black barristers in Britain and a passionate advocate to improve opportunities for ethnic minorities”.

Lincoln will be missed by the many of us in Chambers who knew him and counted him as a friend, and much remembered for his genuine and important contribution to the cause of racial equality at the bar, which he championed throughout his life.

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