



12

King's Bench Walk

ANNUAL REVIEW 2024

A look back at the highlights and
achievements of the year



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A message from our Head of Chambers



I am delighted to be able to write the introduction to this Annual Review as Head of Chambers, having taken over from William Audland KC in June this year.

Angela Frost and John-Paul Swoboda were elected as the two Deputy Heads of Chambers alongside me, and the three of us look forward to leading Chambers for the next five years.

We owe an immense debt of gratitude to the outgoing team of William, Charlotte Reynolds and Anna Symington, and we thank them on behalf of all members of Chambers.

It has been an exciting year for 12KBW as you will read elsewhere in this Review. For me, one of the real highlights has been being reminded just how well our outstanding staff and clerking teams work, behind the scenes and often unnoticed, and I love hearing clients tell

me how exceptional the service is that they provide and, in turn, that they enable us as barristers to provide.

Another highlight was being able to pick up both the Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners Awards for PI Set of the Year, reflecting not only the skill and ability of the lawyers here, but the whole team that together makes up 12KBW.

As you are reading this Annual Review, I imagine you will already know about the exceptional reputation Chambers has in our chosen areas of work, and some of the cases we have been involved in through 2024.

Some of the other aspects of Chambers life in this Review may be new to you however, and I'd encourage you to read it all and get a proper sense of who we are.

We are grateful to all our clients who entrust us with their cases, and wish you all a happy Christmas and a good New Year.

Steven Snowden KC,
Head of Chambers



Personal Injury

Our Personal Injury Team enjoyed a hugely successful year in 2024. We did the double again, winning Personal Injury Set of the Year at both the [Chambers Bar Awards](#) and the Legal 500 Bar Awards. A truly remarkable achievement and we are deeply grateful to all our clients who supported us in achieving it.

Completing a clean sweep across our finalist categories at the Chambers Bar Awards, [Nigel Lewers won the richly deserved Personal Injury Junior of the Year Award](#). At the Legal 500 Awards, Michael Rawlinson KC was shortlisted for Personal Injury Junior of the Year.

Nigel Lewers and Gemma Scott were [elected to lead the team in the autumn](#), succeeding Steven Snowden KC following his appointment as Head of Chambers. We are hugely grateful for Steven's outstanding leadership of the team in recent years.

Underscoring our preminent position in personal injury law, [we maintained Band 1/Tier 1 rankings in both legal directories](#). Notably, 11 members were promoted, and 9 members achieved new rankings - a testament to the depth of talent across the team.

Our commitment to in-person knowledge sharing continues to flourish through our training events.

In October, our [Military Claims Conference](#) at the National Army Museum featured sessions on abuse, inhalation diseases, compensation for loss of military career, and the Overseas Operations Act. Drinks followed, accompanied by a fascinating talk by the museum on their collections under a suspended Lynx helicopter (pictured).

In November, our joint [Clinical Negligence and Personal Injury Conference](#) in Manchester explored topics such as loss of chance, disability in future loss claims, Rome II, foreign jurisdiction updates, and mandatory ADR.

Steven Snowden KC, leading Dr. Achas Burin, represented the largest group of infected and affected individuals (1,500+) at the Infected Blood Inquiry. Its [final damning report was published in May](#). 30,000 people were infected over many years and the Inquiry found authorities had exposed victims to unacceptable risks and covered up the NHS's biggest treatment disaster. Following the report, the Prime Minister issued

an apology, and £10bn compensation has been earmarked by the Government for victims.

Nina Ross was instructed in potential legal action against Mohammed Al Fayed involving allegations of rape, sexual assault, and trafficking. [She also secured a High Court victory for Ella Janneh](#), awarded over £200,000 in damages against therapist Michael Lousada for sexual assault during a therapy session. This high profile case widely reported in the media was pursued after the CPS declined to take action. It highlighted significant gaps in the regulation of therapists.

In *Palmer v Timms*, a fatal RTA claim, [Andrew Roy KC secured a multi-million-pound award for the widow of a motorcyclist killed by a lorry](#).

[Marcus Dignum KC successfully defended liability in Gadsby v Hayes](#) in a four day trial, where the court held a driver to be blameless for an accident involving a child pedestrian, noting the driver's reduced speed on approach.

Michael Rawlinson KC led two major group actions: a product liability claim for cancers argued to arise out of the use of talc and alleged asbestos contamination of talc, and another on cancer claims linked to aviation exhaust fumes.

Hugh Hamill represented the defendant in [Jenkins v Thurrock Council](#) (reported in the Law Society Gazette) where the claimant was penalised for an exaggerated costs budget and ordered to pay the defendant's costs for the Cost Budgeting hearing.

Pankaj Madan published his third book, [A Practical Guide to Catastrophic Brain Injury Claims](#), and was appointed President-Elect of the Royal Society of Medicine's Pain Section Council - the first lawyer to hold this position.

12KBW's PI Blog has been thriving this year under our Editor, Dr Achas Burin. Blog posts have covered a wide of range of issues of interest to practitioners including liability for omissions, principles at play in RTA claims, vicarious liability in abuse cases, medical examination and fairness between the parties. [Click here to sign-up to the blog and view all our posts over the last year.](#)

We are incredibly grateful to our clients for entrusting us with cases across the full spectrum of personal injury law, from high-value claims to County Court litigation.

Chambers UK Bar Awards 2024



12KBW wins Personal Injury Set of the Year and Nigel Lewers wins Personal Injury Junior of the Year, Chambers Bar Awards 2024



12KBW Military Claims Seminar, National Army Museum

Clinical Negligence

2024 saw 12KBW's Clinical Negligence Team go from strength to strength. We moved up to Band 4 in the Chambers & Partners set rankings, with three members promoted and two members newly ranked.

We maintained our Tier 3 set ranking in the Legal 500 with three members newly ranked and two members promoted.

The directories commended our *"quality in depth across chambers"* with a *"strong presence in the clinical negligence sector"* and a *"well-regarded team of silks and juniors with great experience in highly complex medical matters and excellent command of the complex subject material."*

It was a busy year for events, with the team returning to Manchester and Cardiff to repeat the success of last year's seminars. Talks covered a wide range of issues including clinical negligence in psychiatry, clinical negligence in stroke management, material contribution and accommodation awards in short life expectancy cases.

We hosted a highly successful and well-attended thank you party for our clients at the Postal Museum in September (pictured). Our evening included an immersive train ride for our guests on a 100-year-old 'Mail Rail' under the streets of London and exclusive access to the museum exhibitions.

Our 'Senses & Sensibilities' three-part series of seminars continues to examine clinical negligence injuries impacting the senses and mind. Our first seminar in October discussed the legacy of brain injury on sight and perception. In December, we considered suicidal ideation and self-harm and the routes to recognition, intervention and treatment. In January 2025 we conclude the series by looking at sensory impairment following neurological injuries.

12KBW were strongly represented at AvMA events including sponsorship of their Annual Clinical Negligence Conference in Leeds.

12KBW's Clinical Negligence blog, edited by Elizabeth Boulden and Chris Fleming, continued to provide expert insights into the main legal issues of the day, with visitors to the site increasing from the previous year.

The final report of the Infected Blood Inquiry was handed down, in which Steven Snowden KC led Dr

Achas Burin in representing the largest group of infected and affected individuals at the Inquiry (1,500+ core and non-core participants).

William Featherby KC and Vanessa Cashman settled a 20-year old cerebral palsy claim for £9m. After a lengthy fight on liability and quantum, the settlement was approved in November 2024.

John-Paul Swoboda acted for a young woman suffering kidney failure in the long running matter of *F v Southampton NHS Foundation Trust*. The case involved highly complex causation arguments. He achieved a 7-figure settlement with high PPOs.

Isaac Hogarth, representing the claimant, settled a fatal claim arising from a delay in the diagnosis and treatment of toxic megacolon, colitis and sepsis. The Deceased left behind a young family. A settlement of over £1 million was reached at a JSM, and approved by the court.

Henry Charles was involved in a £1.3 million settlement of a cauda equina syndrome claim.

Michael Rawlinson KC, leading Ed Ramsay, secured a multi-million-pound settlement for a claimant who suffered a devastating hind-quarter amputation in 2016 as a result of negligent hospital delay in diagnosing necrotising fasciitis. The case involved complex causation arguments relating to the divisibility of injury and material contribution.

Charley Turton represented the Claimant at the successful mediation of a seven-figure claim arising from allegedly negligent aftercare following a laparoscopic pan-proctocolectomy, leading to the need for a permanent stoma.

Daniel Sokol acted for a high-profile claimant who died following a delayed diagnosis of lung cancer. The claimant's anticipated future earnings were accepted to be between £3,000,000 and £5,000,000 a year. The claim settled at a JSM. Daniel is currently instructed in a case involving the negligent performance of a rare and radical surgical procedure: a hemispherectomy. This is where half the brain is removed or disconnected from the rest of the brain.

We are hugely grateful to our clients for their support in 2024 and we look forward to working with you all in 2025.



International & Travel

2024 has been another outstanding year for 12KBW's International & Travel Team.

We're pleased to have maintained our Band 1 Chambers UK ranking, with nine members now individually ranked as leading practitioners in the field of International Personal Injury.

We're recommended for our "expert handling of high-value catastrophic injury claims arising from foreign RTAs and other accidents abroad."

12KBW barristers continue to be instructed in the most important cross-border and travel cases. Judgments were handed down this year from the Supreme Court in the widely reported aviation and Retained EU Law case of *Lipton v BA Cityflyer* (Michael Rawlinson KC and Corinne Novell) and from the Court of Appeal on Spanish penalty interest in *Nicholls v Mapfre* (William Audland KC and Philip Mead). Michael Rawlinson KC was recognised as Times Lawyer of the Week in July for his contribution to the *Lipton* case.

John-Paul Swoboda is heading to the Court of Appeal in May 2025 for a causation dispute in a tragic swimming pool accident case in *Maddison v TUI*.

Charley Turton was part of a counsel team acting in a high-value claim arising out of the loss of *Lamia Flight 2933*. She represented family members of persons killed when *Flight 2933* crashed in Colombia, alleging a novel duty of care against the aviation insurance broker. The case reached a resolution on confidential terms in March 2024.

Patrick Vincent KC and James Pickering represented the claimant in an 11-day High Court trial, continuing in early 2025, in the case of *DHV v MIB* involving the application of the Spanish *Baremo* and the effect of Recital 33 of *Rome II*.

12KBW have continued to be strongly represented at the key cross-border events in the UK and overseas. We hosted our [Travel Seminar for practitioners in September at One Great George Street](#), London. Talks covered the fallout of the *Lipton* case, contributory negligence in package travel claims, the Montreal Convention, *Rome II*, the Hague Convention and jurisdiction/forum non conveniens cases.

We were the headline sponsor of this year's PEOPIL New Lawyers Group Conference in Paris. We were also a sponsor of the APIL International Injuries Conference, where Nina Ross spoke about expert evidence in international injury claims.

12KBW speakers attended and spoke at PEOPIL events in Lisbon, Athens, and Prague, with Patrick Vincent KC chairing a panel discussion at the prestigious annual conference. 12KBW also co-sponsored October's relaunch event for TATLA, on which James Sullivan is a member of the newly constituted board.

Our International & Travel Law Blog continues to provide in-depth, expertly researched insights on complex cross-border legal challenges. Posts this year have covered RTA claims against foreign insurers, holiday sickness claims, Spanish interest, compensation for delayed air travel following the *Lipton* judgment and serving a claim form on defendants out of the jurisdiction. [Click here to sign up to the blog and view all our posts over the last year.](#)

Finally, there have been a couple of noteworthy appointments, with James Pickering recently being elected as Head of the Team and Peter Hale taking over the editorship of the popular International & Travel Law Blog. We wish them the best of luck in their new roles.





Industrial Disease

- 2024 has seen the Industrial and Environmental Disease Group delivering seminars, writing articles and enjoying success in the legal directories.
- We were ranked once again in Band 1 of Chambers & Partners for Industrial Disease. We now have 13 ranked members, three of whom are newly ranked this year.
- At the start of the year, we hosted our [Annual Asbestos Seminar](#) to a packed house. Members from across our team provided insights on the current legal landscape including Holmes and material contribution, provisional damages claims, Cuthbert and pre-1965 exposure and the Courts' approach to lay and expert evidence.
- Throughout the year we have held seminars for individual firms on request. We were delighted to be the headline sponsor once again at the APIL Asbestos Conference in October, where Gemma Scott from our team provided a quantum update and chaired the afternoon sessions. Our Patrick Kerr spoke on Cuthbert & White.



Costs

- Annual 12KBW Costs Litigation Seminar at the Law Society in November with talks on misconduct, costs budgeting, extension of FCR and retainers. Costs Team speakers included Andrew Roy KC (Head of 12KBW Costs Team), Lois Aldred, Jeremy McKeown and Costs Judge Jennifer James.
- Frequent posts on the [12KBW Costs Litigation Blog](#), commissioned and coordinated by blog editor, Rebecca Henshaw-Keene. Posts covered a range of topics including wasted costs (Megan Griffiths), costs management (Mary Newnham), costs consequences of failing to prove FD (Charles Robertshaw), witness statements for non-English speakers (Rebecca Henshaw-Keene), recoverability of costs from attending case management meetings (Angela Frost) and CFA Lites (Andrew Roy KC).
- 12KBW sponsored and hosted the 'Costs in the City' Networking Event in February.
- Cressida Mawdesley-Thomas spoke on CFAs at the Association of Costs Lawyers Conference, Manchester in April.
- Farhana Mukith and Jeremy McKeown spoke on 'Solicitors suing clients for unpaid fees - the process and pitfalls' at the Association of Costs Lawyers Conference, London in October.
- 12KBW sponsored the ACL Manchester Conference in April and the ACL London Conference in October.

“12KBW is the pre-eminent asbestos and industrial disease set in the UK.”
CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2025

Employment

Members of the Employment Team continued to appear in Tribunals across the country, and in the EAT.

We held seminars in London and in Manchester, where members shared insights into anticipated legislation from the new Labour government, developments in the law around whistleblowing, the new duty to prevent sexual harassment, and tactics on achieving (or avoiding!) strike out.

We were delighted to retain our rankings in both sets of directories, and to see members promoted and ranked for the first time.

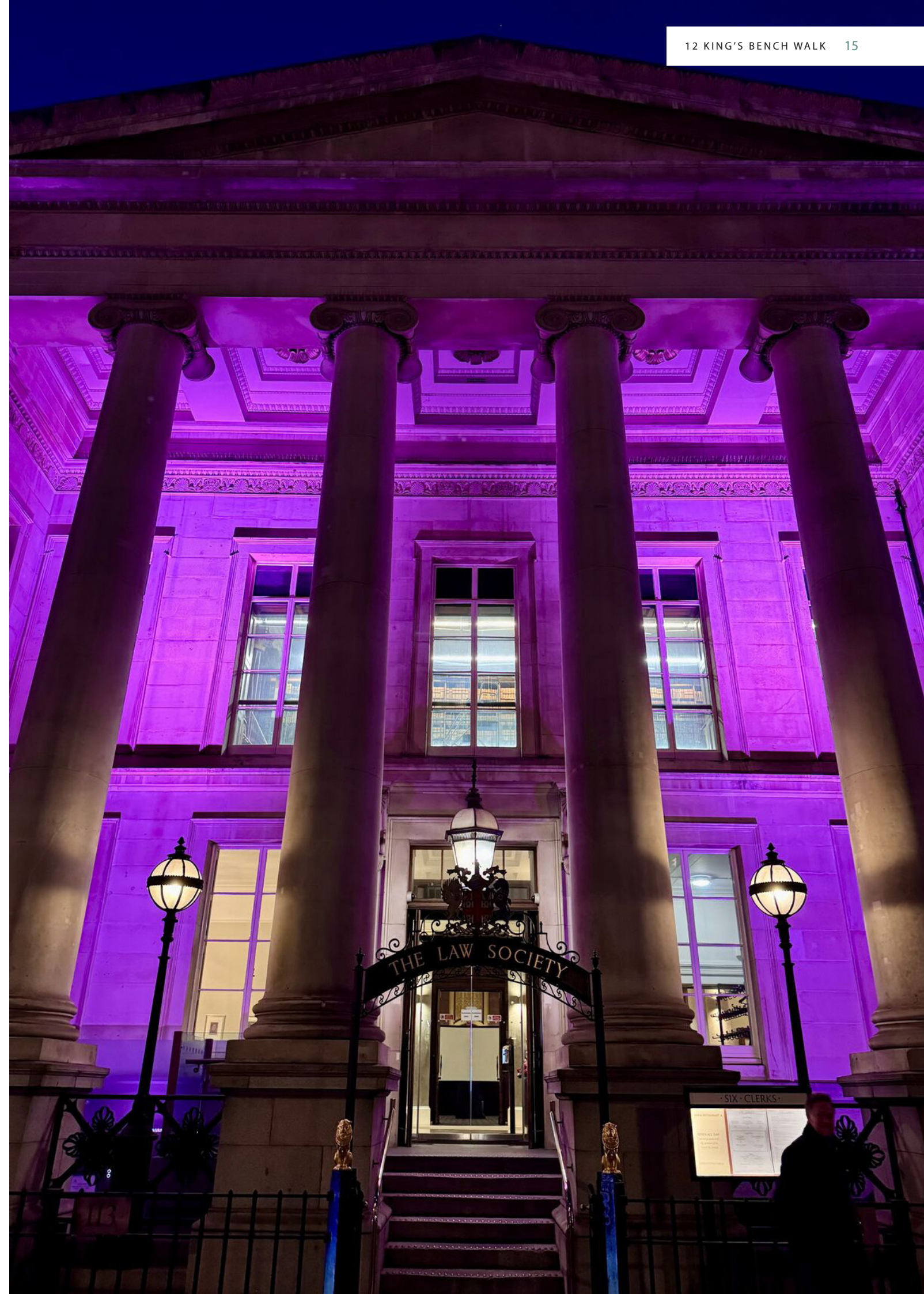
David Green took over as head of the employment group in November 2024. He appeared several times in the EAT, most notably in *Minis Childcare Ltd v Hilton-Webb* [2024] EAT 108, which provides valuable guidance on differentiating reasonable adjustments and indirect discrimination claims brought by disabled claimants. He also co-authored a chapter on rights at work in 'British Legal Reform: an Agenda for Change', a new book setting out a proposed agenda for legislative reform for the new government.

Joel Kendall acted for the successful Appellant on a pro bono basis in *Lewis v Dow Silicones UK Limited* [2024] EAT 51. The judge ruled there is limited scope for an employer to advance a different reason for dismissal at a remitted hearing. Furthermore, the judge ruled it can be open to an employment tribunal to decide that the reason for the dismissal is something different from that advanced by the Respondent (or indeed the Claimant), but it must have evidence on which to do so.

Hollie Patterson represented Barts NHS Trust in successfully defending a complex unlawful deduction from wages claim against 21 Claimants. The potential liability ran to hundreds of thousands of pounds and there were also wider implications for the Trust regarding the interpretation of Agenda for Change if these claims were successful.

Tom Pacey appeared in the EAT in the case of *Edwins v Artem* dealing with the burden of proof in discrimination cases. The matter received lively media attention as it provided a window into the culture of the special effects industry.

[Our employment law blog](#) - edited by David Green - continued to provide regular analysis and comment on the latest notable cases and changing legal landscape. Members from across the team published blog posts on a wide range of topics this year including the Employment Rights Bill, mutuality of obligation and control, day one unfair dismissal rights, whistleblowing reform, vicarious liability under the Equality Act and reasonable adjustments in disability cases. [Click here to sign-up to the blog and to view all our posts over the last year.](#)



Inquests & Inquiries

- Steven Snowden KC, leading Dr Achas Burin, represented the largest group of infected and affected individuals (1,500+) at the Infected Blood Inquiry. Its final damning report was published in May. The Inquiry found authorities had exposed victims to unacceptable risks and covered up the NHS's biggest treatment disaster. The Prime Minister issued an apology and £10bn compensation has been earmarked by the Government for victims.
- Steven Snowden KC was shortlisted for Public Law Silk of the Year at the Legal 500 Bar Awards 2024, a category covering Public Inquiries.
- Dr Achas Burin was newly ranked for Inquests & Inquiries in the Legal 500.
- Henry Charles was appointed Assistant Coroner for Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton.
- Dr Achas Burin acted for the Designated Lawyers Group and Anna Moradi acted for the Inquiry Legal Team on the Undercover Policing Inquiry. The Inquiry is examining the full scope of undercover policing since 1968 and providing recommendations for the future.
- Alex Carington and Anna Moradi are both instructed on the Independent Inquiry relating to Afghanistan to investigate matters arising from the deployment of British Special Forces to Afghanistan. The inquiry is investigating between mid-2010 and mid-2013.
- Gareth McAloon and Anna Moradi are both instructed on the COVID-19 Inquiry. The Inquiry is examining the UK's response to and impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Steven Snowden KC leading Dr Achas Burin, Rebecca Henshaw-Keene and Jake Loomes are representing over 100 affected families at the 'Lampard Inquiry', a statutory inquiry investigating the deaths of over 2,000 mental health patients in NHS Trusts in Essex.
- Andrew Hogarth KC represented the family of Mark Nicol who was killed when he was crushed between a forklift truck he had parked and a metal rack as a result of the truck brake failing. Jury concluded that his death was contributed to by a failure to repair the defective braking system on the truck properly. A claim will be brought on behalf of his widow against the employers and the repairer of the truck.
- Edward Ramsay acted for the parents of Marina Waldron at the inquest into her death. Marina was one of the earliest fatalities arising from the Covid-19 national vaccination programme in early 2021. Following her vaccination with the Oxford/AstraZeneca™ vaccine in March 2021 she developed thrombocytopenia and cerebral venous sinus thrombosis. She attended three different accident and emergency departments before her death but was discharged with a diagnosis of migraine. The inquest explored and concluded that the assessing clinicians were unaware of the potentially fatal complications associated with the vaccine (which had already led to the vaccine's suspension in the EU and the issuing of advice to the general public on the gov.uk website). Edward, with Robert Oldham, is continuing to act for Marina's parents in brought judicial review proceedings challenging the coroner's decision that there was no arguable violation of her right to life under the ECHR.
- Emily Read represented the family of the deceased at a 5-week Article 2 jury inquest into the death of CM, a young woman with autism and a low BMI whose death whilst on 2 to 1 supervision on an acute psychiatric ward was found to have been "due to excessive consumption of water due to an overall failure to consider her BMI in relation to the risks posed by water toxicity, insufficient knowledge by staff of those risks and subsequent inadequate measures to prevent fatality." The inquest led to a list of 10 admitted failures by the NHS Trust as well as a number of PFD's in relation to mental health provision for young adults with ASD and in relation to water toxicity.
- Vanessa Cashman acted for the parents of 15-month-old baby, Olly Stopforth, in the jury inquest into his death. He died from an invasive bacterial infection leading to sepsis. The jury found that there was inadequate care at all stages of Olly's admission into the Countess of Chester Hospital and that had antibiotics been given to him, as they should have been, survival would have been highly likely.



Sports

The 12 King's Bench Walk Sports Law Team are delighted to have enjoyed another successful year in 2024.

This year Patrick Kerr was re-elected as head of the group with Dr David Sharpe KC joining Patrick as a new co-head.

Members have continued to act in some of the most high-profile sporting disputes of the year. William Audland KC continues to lead various members of chambers, including Niall Maclean, Gemma Scott, Isaac Hogarth, Charley Turton and Spencer Turner in the defence of the Rugby Football League in respect of over 100 claims brought by former professional players who allege that they have suffered various neurological conditions as a result of repeated concussions and sub concussions sustained during the course of their careers. David Sharpe KC is instructed in the same litigation on behalf of the International Rugby League. Similarly, Steven Snowden KC and Vanessa Cashman are instructed in the football concussion test litigation for the Football Association of Wales.

Alongside our serious injury work in the sports world, members of chambers have acted and sat on panels in some significant disciplinary proceedings. David Sharpe KC acted as the chair in proceedings brought by the International Tennis Integrity Agency against Jannik Sinner, the men's world number 1 tennis player for alleged anti-doping violations arising out of two samples found to contain a prohibited substance. David also sat as the chair of an anti-doping case brought against Rodgers Kwemoi, an Olympic medal winning middle-distance runner.

David Sharpe KC acted in the case of the Rugby Football League against Mark Aston, a regulatory case concerning return to play concussion protocols which attracted national attention. David was reappointed to the Sports Resolution Panel for the period 2024-27. Sport Resolution is a resolution service for sports that operate globally and includes the top legal professionals working in sport. We were delighted to see David appointed as Chair of the International Bar Association Sports Law Subcommittee.

Spencer Turner has acted in significant regulatory disciplinary cases this year, including in rugby union and golf.

John-Paul Swoboda was instructed on behalf of a premier league footballer to defend an action brought against him in the High Court.

We were delighted to host a three-part seminar series covering sports arbitration awards, equine sports injuries and safeguarding athletes. The team's marketing offering included a fantastic event in Belfast, in collaboration with LawInSport on the topic of 'developing professional sport in Ireland'.

The group were also delighted to receive rankings for sports law in the legal directories. William Audland KC was ranked as a 'Leading Silk' and Spencer Turner was promoted from a 'Rising Star' to a 'Leading Junior' in the Legal 500. William Audland KC was shortlisted for Sports Law Silk of the Year at the Legal 500 Bar Awards 2024.

Members of the team published a number of expertly researched blogs with insights into a range of topical sports law topics, including safeguarding, FIFA regulations on player transfers, the employment status of part-time football officials, anti-doping regulations and financial fair play rules. [Visit our news page to view all our sports law blog posts this year.](#)

We're hugely thankful to all our clients for their continued support in 2024.



Directory Rankings

Top Band rankings for 12KBW

12 King's Bench Walk is proud to be recognised once again as a Top Ranked Set by Chambers and Partners.

This year's Bar rankings saw 68 barrister rankings for 12KBW across our specialist areas of law, recognising our leading expertise in:

- Personal Injury
- Industrial Disease
- Travel: International Personal Injury
- Clinical Negligence
- Employment
- Costs Litigation
- Motor Insurance Fraud
- Aviation
- Civil Liberties & Human Rights
- Group Litigation
- Inquests and Public Inquiries

According to Chambers and Partners personal injury rankings, Band 1 ranked 12KBW is noted for being *"routinely instructed in the most important cases in the market...members have significant experience appearing before the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal."*

12 King's Bench Walk's Band 1 Industrial Disease Team is *"unmatched in its depth and breadth of experience in asbestos-related and other industrial diseases"*.

Our Clinical Negligence Team has secured a richly deserved promotion from Band 5 to Band 4, reflecting our growing number and seniority of rankings in this area of law. Chambers Bar Guide comments, *"12 King's Bench Walk hosts a well-regarded team of silks and juniors with great experience in highly complex medical matters and excellent command of the complex subject material."*

Our International Personal Injury Team has maintained a Band 1 ranking. 12KBW is described as a *"highly regarded personal injury set with a strong reputation in the travel sector with experience appearing before the courts in several foreign jurisdictions, as well as the UK Supreme Court and Court of Appeal"*.



Chambers and Partners comments on our *"impressive claimant-side employment practice, which sees the barristers handle a range of claims on behalf of individuals in professional and financial services as well as the public sector. The fantastic barristers also have experience representing respondents"*.

Our Practice Management Team is highly commended with Chambers & Partners commenting, *"12 King's Bench Walk provides outstanding clerking. They go out of their way to ensure the clients' needs are met. Their clerking team is one of the very best – nothing is too much trouble and they will go to the ends of the earth to make things happen for you."*

[For further details on our ranked barristers and teams, visit the Chambers and Partners website.](#)



Awards

12KBW wins Personal Injury Set of the Year and Nigel Lewers wins Personal Injury Junior of the Year

Our Personal Injury Team enjoyed hugely successful recognition at the directory awards this year. 12KBW won Personal Injury Set of the Year at both the [Chambers Bar Awards](#) and the [Legal 500 Bar Awards](#).

We would like to thank all our clients whose feedback helps us maintain our standards of excellence. 12KBW has won Personal Injury Set of the Year five times in recent years at the Chambers Bar Awards.

[Nigel Lewers won the richly deserved Personal Injury Junior of the Year Award at the Chambers Bar Awards.](#) Nigel Lewers is Joint Head of 12KBW’s Personal Injury Team and ranked as a “Star Individual” by Chambers and Partners.

Based on rigorous research for the Chambers UK Bar Guide and Legal 500 Bar Guide, these awards recognise exceptional legal expertise, strategic growth and excellence in client service.

“12 King’s Bench Walk provides outstanding clerking.”
CHAMBERS & PARTNERS 2025

Chambers Bar Awards 2024

12KBW
Personal Injury Set of the Year
WINNER

Nigel Lewers
Personal Injury Junior of the Year

WINNER



Legal 500 Awards 2024

12KBW
Personal Injury Set of the Year
WINNER

12KBW
Clerking Team of the Year
FINALIST

Steven Snowden KC
Public Law Silk of the Year (inc Public Inquiries)
FINALIST



Michael Rawlinson KC
Personal Injury Silk of the Year
FINALIST



William Audland KC
Sport Silk of the Year
FINALIST



Diversity & Inclusion



10,000 Black Interns

12KBW continued its participation in the programme and we hosted two interns in June 2024 as part of the Bar profession's collaborative effort. In doing so 12KBW joined companies across the UK in providing paid internships to young black people in the UK.

[More information about the programme can be found here.](#)

Social Mobility Mini Pupillage

After a hotly contested round of applicants, 12KBW hosted three mini pupils on its Social Mobility Mini Pupillage Scheme in October 2024.

Outreach

12KBW barristers participated in a number of diversity outreach programmes including the Bar Council Speakers for Schools, Inner Temple/Gray's Inn Outreach and Pathways to Law programmes. Anna Moradi arranged an evening talk from individuals who had succeeded in law despite difficult backgrounds, to give advice and inspiration to others.

Gender pay gap review

12KBW continued with its work on reducing the gender pay gap with a review undertaken by Alex Carington as Equality & Diversity Officer into the causes and solutions. William Audland KC and

Charlotte Reynolds were hosted at a gender pay gap event by PIBA to discuss the progress made by 12KBW on tackling the gender pay gap and to provide practical help and insight into the methods we have adopted to tackle it. This initiative continues to build on the work previously undertaken by the 12KBW Women and Fair Practice Committee.

BSB Consultation

12KBW provided a response to the BSB consultation on its proposals for advancing and promoting diversity at the Bar, diversity monitoring and proposals to enhance fair access to those with disabilities.

2024 Race Action Plan

In July, 12KBW updated its Race Action Plan following feedback from members and staff and consultation with chambers' Race Action Plan committee.

The Race Action Plan is intended to improve access, retention and career progression for all those under-represented at the Bar in terms of race and ethnicity. [To read the 12KBW Race Action Plan in full, please click here.](#)

New Head and Deputy Heads of Chambers



Steven Snowden KC
Head of Chambers



Angela Frost
Deputy Head of Chambers



John-Paul Swoboda
Deputy Head of Chambers

12KBW was delighted to announce that Steven Snowden KC was elected as Head of Chambers and Angela Frost and John-Paul Swoboda were elected as Deputy Heads of Chambers in July 2024.

Steven took over from William Audland KC. Angela and John-Paul took over from Charlotte Reynolds and Anna Symington. All of them remain in full time practice at 12KBW.

“

We very much look forward to taking Chambers from strength to strength over the next few years and working with the outstanding barristers, clerks and staff who together make up this exceptional set.”

STEVEN SNOWDEN KC, HEAD OF CHAMBERS

New Silk - Craig Murray KC (Scot.)



In September, The King appointed Craig Murray to the rank of King's Counsel in Scotland on the recommendation of the Scottish First Minister.

King's Counsel appointments are generally reserved for those who have distinguished themselves in practice in the Supreme Courts of Scotland.

Craig Murray specialises in complex and high value cases involving personal injury, historic abuse, industrial disease and clinical negligence. He has a particular specialism in cross-border issues.

Craig returned to private practise in England and Scotland after a 3-year appointment as Crown Counsel, prosecuting serious crime in the High Court of Justiciary.

Craig is ranked as a leading Advocate in Personal Injury by Chambers & Partners and The Legal 500. Craig will continue to practise in England at the junior bar.

New to Chambers



Gareth McAloon

Gareth joined 12KBW in July 2024. His core specialisms are personal injury, industrial disease, clinical negligence, inquests and inquiries, and associated insurance work.

He is ranked as a Leading Junior for Personal Injury in Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500.

He represents both Claimants and Defendants in personal injury matters, mostly high value or complex evidential claims.

Gareth frequently represents families, corporate interests or government agencies at Inquests.

Gareth was appointed to the Attorney General's Panel of Counsel in 2020 on the Midlands Circuit. He has served as the Personal Injury Bar Association Midlands Circuit Representative since 2019.



Tom Vonberg

12KBW welcomed Tom Vonberg as a new member of Chambers in January 2024.

Tom is highly ranked in both Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500 for personal injury law. Legal directories describe Tom as "having an impeccable manner with clients" and "well known for his handling of high-value personal injury claims".

Tom has significant experience of the full range of catastrophic and fatal injuries, including those in a clinical context.

He routinely appears in cases involving traumatic brain injury, spinal injury and in large dependency claims following fatal accidents.

He has also worked on a number of multi-party actions in relation to product liability, air and road accidents and in respect of injury and illness abroad.

New Tenants

Chambers was delighted to offer tenancy to Jessica Muurman and Robert Oldham after successful completion of their pupillage at 12KBW.



Jessica Muurman

Jessica joined Chambers in October 2024 following the successful completion of her pupillage under the supervision of Marcus Dignum KC, Isaac Hogarth and James Pickering. She accepts instructions in all areas of personal injury, appearing in court several times a week while developing a busy paperwork practice.

During her pupillage, she gained a wide breadth of experience in personal injury, clinical negligence, inquests, industrial disease, indemnity, travel and military work. She is interested in all the core areas of Chambers' expertise.

Prior to pupillage, Jessica worked at an Employment Tribunal and a healthcare regulator. Jessica studied Biomedical Sciences, where she graduated with a first-class degree. In her legal studies, Jessica obtained a Distinction in both the GDL and Bar Course, and was supported by Inn and institution scholarships.



Robert Oldham

Robert joined Chambers in October 2024 after completing pupillage under the supervision of Patrick Vincent KC, Rachit Buch, James Sullivan and Edward Ramsay.

He has developed expertise across all of Chambers' core practice areas, and has a particular interest in personal injury, clinical negligence, employment, and inquests.

Before pupillage, Robert worked for the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. As a diplomat, he undertook postings in Central Europe and East Africa.

Robert obtained a distinction on both the Bar Vocational Course and the Graduate Diploma in Law. He was also awarded a BVS Scholarship for the Bar Course. He holds a double first-class degree in English from Pembroke College, Cambridge.

New Pupils

In 2024 we welcomed three new pupils to chambers, Lara Thomas, Alexander Cornelius and Finn Selman. They are currently supervised by Nina Ross, Patrick Vincent KC and Catherine Peck respectively.



Lara Thomas

Prior to commencing pupillage, Lara worked as a Legal Assistant at the Medical Protection Society where she developed a predominantly inquest-based caseload, providing legal support to doctors appearing at inquests often spanning a wide range of complex medical issues.

Lara was previously a casework volunteer with Advocate, the Bar's national pro bono charity, and undertook work as an assistant at another civil set of chambers.

Lara obtained her undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences from Wadham College, Oxford and subsequently achieved a distinction on both the Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) and the Barrister Training Course (BTC).

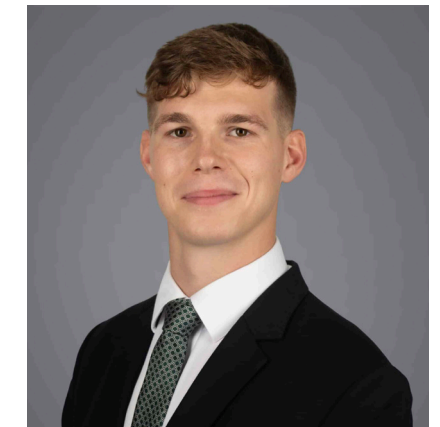


Alexander Cornelius

Before pupillage Alex worked as a county court advocate across the South East attending over 200 hearings covering a wide variety of civil work including small claims trials, directions hearings and debt recovery. He also worked as a paralegal defending motor finance commission litigation.

He has been a guest lecturer at the University College London International Commercial Litigation summer school.

Alex obtained an outstanding mark on the Bar Practice Course, supported by a scholarship from Gray's Inn, with an overall average of 90% and marks of 98% in Civil Litigation and 97% in Criminal Litigation. He also obtained a distinction in his LLM at University College London obtaining the highest mark in the year in International Commercial Litigation.



Finn Selman

Finn read Law at the University of Birmingham, graduating with First Class Honours. He subsequently obtained a Very Competent in the Bar Practice Course, supported by scholarships awarded by the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple.

Prior to pupillage, Finn worked as a chef under Tom Kerridge and travelled extensively before becoming a paralegal in the clinical negligence team at Stewarts Law LLP. In this latter role, Finn's work focused specifically on high value serious injury claims.

Finn is a Volunteer Employment Representative at the Free Representation Unit.

In his spare time, Finn can be found tending the wildflower meadow he has established or playing rugby.

Thank you from our Director of Clerking



As the year draws to a close, we take this moment to reflect on another exceptional year for 12KBW.

To our loyal clients, thank you for trusting us with your business and giving us the opportunity to contribute to your success. We are immensely proud of what we have accomplished together this year and we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead in 2025. Our commitment to delivering the highest standards of service and results remains unwavering, and we look forward to continuing our partnership.

To our incredible staffing team, thank you for your hard work, dedication, and the passion you bring to 12KBW. Your efforts have been the driving force behind our success this year. I am grateful for each of you and the integral role you play in shaping who we are. Together, we have achieved so much, and I am excited for another year of growth, innovation, and success as we move forward as a team.

Wishing everyone a happy festive period and a healthy, prosperous New Year!

Oliver Parkhouse,
Director of Clerking



“*Their clerking team is one of the very best – nothing is too much trouble and they will go to the ends of the earth to make things happen for you.*”

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2025

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