

DWF Chambers

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Testimonials

“I’ve instructed DWF Chambers on most of my advocacy matters for a few years. I’ve been impressed with the level of service and expertise provided by the team. First, the team have offered an advocate to cover every hearing I’ve requested, including trips to far flung courts and secondly, I can avoid outdated instruction documents and fileshare arrangements in favour of a short email summary with key points and invitation to review key documents on case manager. It’s also really useful that I can speak to an advocate in advance of a hearing to cover key points, or in most cases, leave it to them to deal in the best way. There are a wide range of advocates to suit each case or task and I’ve been impressed with the outcomes in all cases. The service is a real alternative to the external bar and saved time and money on all fronts so I’d recommend to clients and colleagues if you’ve not already had the pleasure.”

Mark Treacher, Partner – Occupational Health and Casualty





Testimonials

“DWF Chambers is at the forefront of our Group differentiated offering, assisting in fulfilling our vision to become the leading global provider of integrated legal and business services. Central to our growth strategy is our approach to sharing opportunities to service clients across our global divisions, sectors and practice groups. There is a huge opportunity to strengthen client relationships and grow our business through better utilisation of our Business Services, especially DWF Chambers. I would very much like to see more of our colleagues put our strategy into action, viewing DWF Chambers as the default provider for the services they offer, and I encourage you to talk to DWF Chambers about how they can help you and your clients.”

Sir Nigel Knowles, CEO

Who are we

DWF Chambers is an expert, quality, streamlined service, operating as an alternative to the external Bar and traditional chambers – saving you money and making communication easier.

How can we help?

Operating as an in-house set of chambers, with a dedicated clerking team, DWF's barristers and advocates understand that getting the best results from advocacy relies on specialist understanding and up-to-the-minute experience. That's why DWF Chambers is separated into sub-teams, drawing together experts in personal and catastrophic injury, occupational health and disease, employment and commercial including commercial landlord and tenant and real property, professional indemnity and costs applications and assessments.

DWF Chambers accepts instructions directly, as well as through DWF Law LLP. Whether you need someone to conduct remote or in-person court hearings, in all courts across England and Wales or support with drafting, our commitment to providing the very highest quality legal expertise, at a reasonable cost, sets us apart from the other chambers.

We specialise in the following core areas:

- Commercial / Dispute Resolution
- Employment
- Personal Injury / Fraud
- Regulatory





Personal Injury / Fraud

We cover the work of a variety of teams within DWF, including Catastrophic Injury, Occupational Health / Casualty, Motor, Fraud and Costs, providing a full service including advisory, drafting and advocacy work as well as attendance and representation at ADR.

We are able to accept a wide range of instructions from very high-value catastrophic personal injury matters down to volume work such as representation at stage 3 quantum hearings.

Unlike traditional chambers, our 'in-house' nature means we are able to draw on deep and broad sector understanding from our position within the firm. Our barristers and advocates sit alongside specialist solicitors, as well as a range of in-house connected services, providing a seamless client experience. This allows us to deliver the very best representation at rates competitive with the external bar.

Working alongside DWF's 1000-strong, award-winning insurance team our Cat PI and Occupational Health advocates bring market-leading insight, deep legal expertise and seamless client service. Our innovative in-house structure supports this in a way traditional chambers can't. By working alongside many solicitors and claims specialists, as well as Medical and Rehabilitation managers, Forensic (our forensic accountancy service) and in-house collision investigation experts, we are able to develop a better cultural understanding of the case, as well as improve its day-to-day management.

Our advocates are skilled in drawing upon a sector-specific understanding of claims ranging from RTA and motor claims, to NIHL and disease claims, EL/PL, product liability, police and prison claims. We have particular expertise in handling interlocutory matters, fraudulent claims and matters relating to costs and case management.

Commercial / Dispute Resolution

Commercial

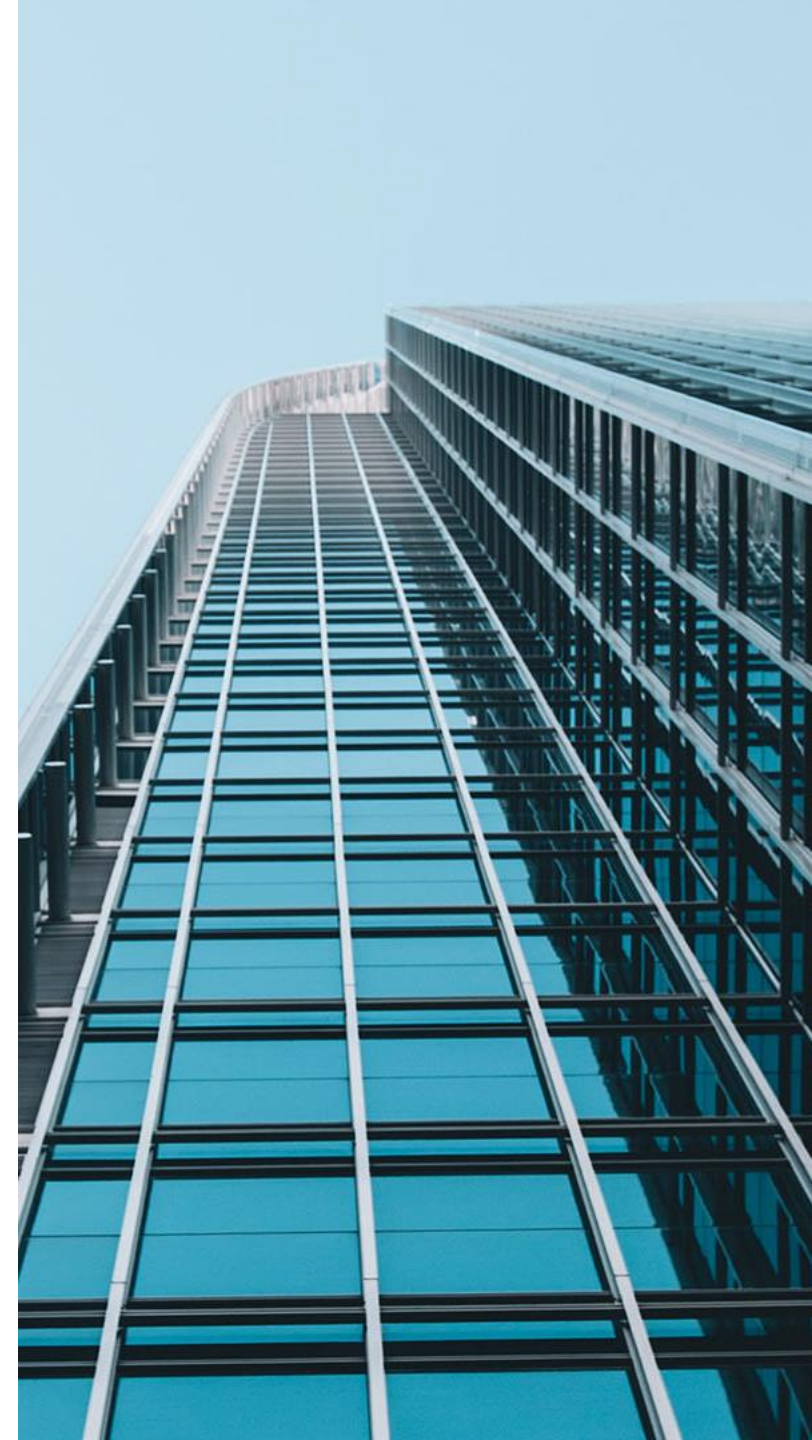
Our team act in both domestic and international matters in different commercial sectors including contract, sale of goods and professional indemnity. Our team members have wide experience in the specialist County Courts lists and the High Court of England & Wales and experience acting in high-value freezing injunctions. The team has experience acting from the pre-action stage to trial.

Insolvency and Company

Our team act in a range of Insolvency applications across England & Wales. Our advocates are regularly instructed in applications for the extension of the Company's administration term and possession and sale applications. Our team has experience in a range of company law-related matters, from general shareholder disputes, including unfair prejudice petitions, to a breach of fiduciary duties. Furthermore, the team is instructed to advise in corporate transactions.

Property

Our team cover matters such as advice and trials on covenants and easements etc., commercial and residential landlord and tenant work, 1954 Act renewals and dilapidation claims and private client claims for injunctions for example arising out of neighbour type disputes over boundaries and covenants. Our team members have a wide range of experience in the County Court, High Court and Court of Appeal as well as the First-Tier Tribunal . The team has experience acting from the pre-action stage to trial.





Employment

Our employment law advocates represent both employers and employees at all levels of tribunal and Court across England, Wales and Scotland on a wide range of employment claims.

With a particular specialism in advising on discrimination claims unfair/wrongful dismissal, TUPE, misconduct, and regulatory matters. In addition to advising on and leading internal disciplinary proceedings, our advocates understand the sensitive and complex elements within every employment law case.

Unlike traditional chambers, our 'in-house' nature means we can draw on deep and broad sector understanding, from across DWF, in particular in the education and public sectors.

Regulatory

The regulatory team at DWF Chambers has a wide depth and breadth of knowledge of cases in the fields of health and safety, inquests and inquiries, healthcare regulatory and environmental law.

Members of the team have been instructed to both prosecute and defend cases brought on behalf of the Health and Safety Executive, the Environment Agency, the Care Quality Commission, the Food Standards Agency, various local councils, and Fire and Rescue Authorities.

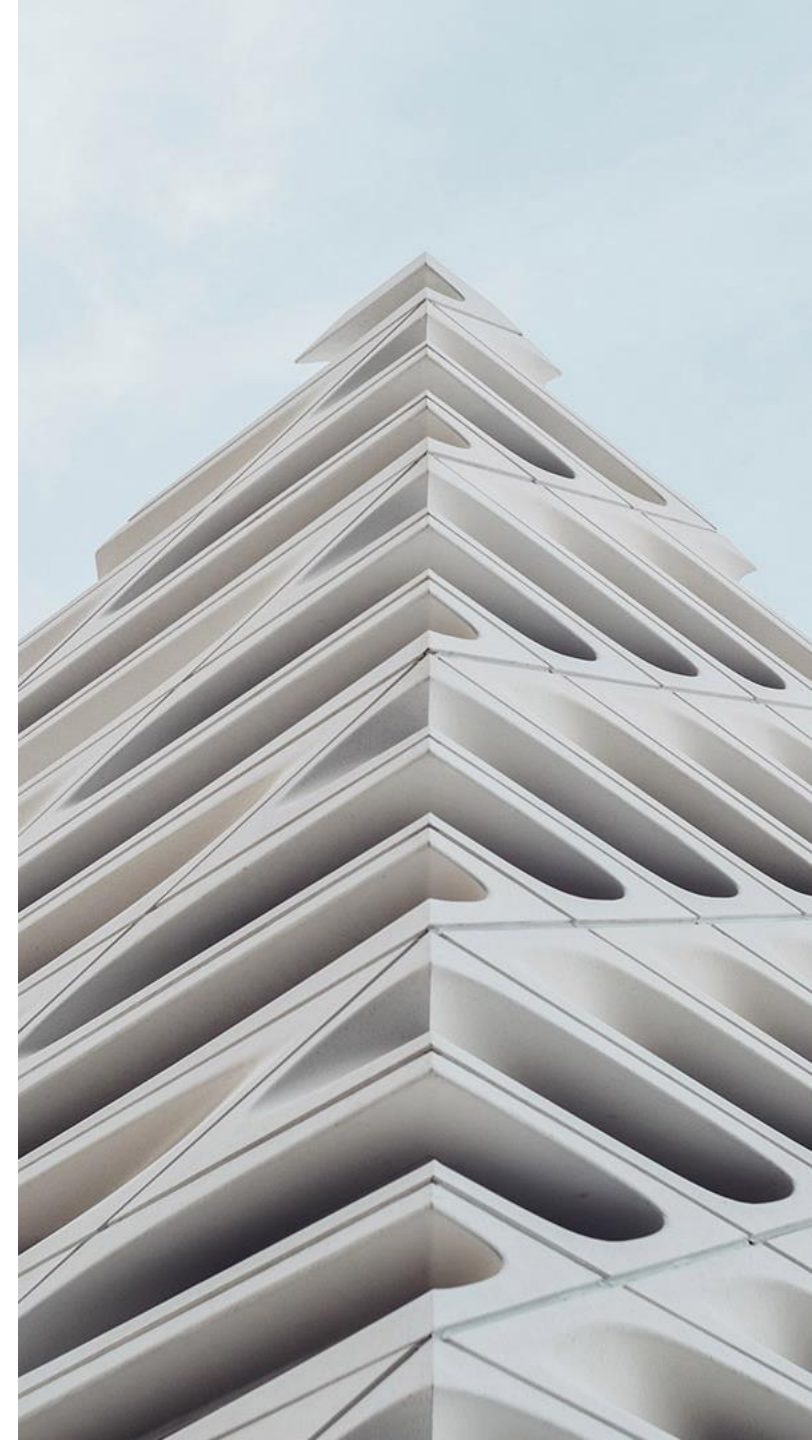
In addition we have experience of inquests, and can assist with representation on behalf of any interested persons. Members of our inquest team have been instructed by mental health charities, the Royal College of Midwives, the Health and Safety Executive and bereaved families.

We also have experience of conducting private prosecutions following fraudulent civil claims.

We have members of the team who are on the list of specialist regulatory advocates in Health and Safety and Environmental Law.

The team have experience representing parties in proceedings brought against medical professionals in fitness to practice and disciplinary hearings.

Members of the Chambers team have also been instructed on behalf of core participants in a number of significant public inquiries including: *The Grenfell Tower Inquiry*, *The Brook House Inquiry* and *The COVID Inquiry*



The DWF Chambers Team



The team

Frances Lawley
Barrister (Director)

Alex Deakin
Barrister (Director)

Jonathan Lester
Barrister (Director)

Anna Wilkinson
Barrister

Christopher Hudson
Barrister

Daniel King
Barrister

Daniel Tresigne
Barrister

Jonathan Cosgrove
Barrister

Neil Baki
Barrister

Christopher Field
Solicitor Advocate

Christopher Neale
Barrister

Dravin Bheemah
Barrister

Jack Hickling
Barrister

Kim Clifton
Barrister (08/01/2024)

Lily Lawrie
Barrister

Michael Vora
Solicitor Advocate

Sarah Platts
Barrister

Sean Batterton
Barrister

Klaudia Klapsia
Pupil Barrister

Alastair Bloor
Advocate

Christian Mills
Advocate

Hannilee Fish
Advocate

Helen Hankey
Advocate

Paige Dennison
Advocate

Dan Monaghan
Director of Clerking & Operations

Josh Finn
Deputy Director of Clerking

Sarah Monaghan
Clerk

Declan Fitzmaurice
Clerk

Jonathan Moore
Clerk

Advocates



Frances Lawley

Barrister, Director

Year of Call: 2007

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Frances joined DWF Chambers in April 2020 after over eleven years experience at the self-employed bar where her practice encompassed personal injury, commercial, chancery and property work.

Frances has significant experience in personal injury litigation including all elements of EL, PL and RTA litigation as well as high-value credit hire disputes and allegations of fraud and fundamental dishonesty. Her commercial, chancery and property experience includes contract, partnership and property disputes, commercial tenancies, business interruption, professional negligence, boundary disputes and easements. She also has some experience in planning and construction work. Frances is also well-versed in all of the procedural and costs elements which arise from her substantive practice. Frances is available for oral advocacy as well as advisory work (both in writing and in conference) and drafting of pleadings.

In May 2020 Frances was appointed as a Deputy District Judge on the North Eastern Circuit. Frances is an accredited advocacy trainer and regularly provides training for pupils and new practitioners on the North Eastern Circuit. She has also provided training for other professionals through a professional skills training partnership. Frances also has experience in providing training on legal updates via seminars, articles and mock trials. Frances is also a member of the Personal Injury Bar Association.

Advocates



Alex Deakin

Barrister, Director

Year of Call: 2017

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Alex joined DWF in May 2021 and currently specialises in commercial law whilst also maintaining an interest in large PI claims and dealing with instances of alleged fundamental dishonesty.

Alongside being in Court most days, Alex also has a thriving paperwork practice. This can range from drafting statements of case through to providing advices as to prospects and also strategy in general.

Alex initially completed pupillage with a well-regarded London criminal set, before becoming a member of a Legal 500 leading set in Kent practising civil law. Alex has been instructed at all levels in the County Court and is regularly instructed to attend the High Court.

Having previously qualified as a Chartered Accountant, with one of the Big 4, Alex has a keen eye for the figures and also recognises the commercial realities facing clients.

Alex is a member of the DWF Injury Validation Unit panel.

Advocates



Jonathan Lester

Barrister, Director
Year of Call: 2016
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Jonathan joined DWF Chambers in October 2023 after a career both as a self-employed barrister and a solicitor.

Jonathan specialises in Insolvency/Financial Restructuring, Commercial Litigation, Property / Real Estate and Professional Negligence. Jonathan is also experienced in Personal Injury / Fraud claims.

Recent work includes:

Acting for the guarantor of a £2.5m facility to defend a claim on the guarantee on the grounds of misrepresentation;

Advising a lender on the validity of the appointment of receivers and the possibility of subrogation to earlier charges, with some £4.5m of lending on a luxury-home build in issue;

Appearing in 5-day trial for the landlord on a leasehold damage and disrepair claim;

Advising and drafting statements of case on a £3m negligence claim against a patent attorney for causing its client to fall into breach of a pre-existing contractual obligation;

Jonathan is a Contributing Editor to *Encyclopaedia of Banking Law*, LexisNexis.

Advocates



Anna Wilkinson

Barrister, Senior Associate

Year of Call: 2007

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Anna is a barrister specialising in personal injury, fraud and regulatory.

Anna has substantial experience in all types of personal injury claims including: road traffic accidents, employers' liability and public liability. She deals with claims in the multi-track and fast track. She is well versed in litigation tactics engaged on both sides as she has acted for both claimants and defendants. She is also very experienced in dealing with credit hire claims.

Anna has extensive experience of civil insurance fraud cases and has spent many years undertaking work in relation to suspicious or fraudulent insurance claims, including cases involving road traffic accidents, slips and trips and accidents at work and involving staged accidents, low speed impacts, bogus passengers and exaggerated personal injury claims.

As Anna's practice also includes regulatory work she has experience of prosecutions for various types of fraud in addition to those brought for breaches of fire, environmental, and health and safety regulations. This experience gives Anna an ability to advise insurance clients in respect of their prospects in criminal cases arising from fraudulent claims for compensation.

Anna has undertaken numerous cases on behalf of both CQC and care home owners. Anna has been instrumental in defending Notices of Proposal and Notices of Decisions at tribunal hearings and is familiar with appeals regarding notices of cancellation of registration and experienced in dealing with the issues which arise in such cases. Anna has represented parties at appeals to the Upper Tier Tribunal.

Anna has experience of representing interested persons at inquests, including those arising from deaths in healthcare settings.

Advocates



Daniel King

Barrister, Senior Associate
Year of Call: 2021

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Daniel is a Barrister. He was admitted to the roll in 2008 and transferred to bar in 2021. He joined DWF Chambers having previously spent over 7 years working as both a litigator and in-house Advocate for a national law firm, providing the firm's fee earners and insurer clients with advocacy, drafting and advisory services.

A counter-fraud specialist, his work encompasses advocacy and drafting arising from the defence of suspected fraudulent road traffic accident claims (many involving large credit hires), in addition to retaining a general civil litigation and EL/PL practice. Daniel regularly advises on counter-fraud strategies and is experienced in the preparation of pleadings engaging s.57 of the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 and fundamental dishonesty.

He is a robust advocate with a proven track record of success at trial – many of the claims he has been instructed to defend have been dismissed in their entirety (including those with a credit hire element). Daniel has extensive experience at representing Defendants at contested interlocutory applications, CMCs, and final determination hearings across all tracks, having appeared in more than 500 oral hearings in County Courts throughout England and Wales over the course of the past 2 years alone.

Daniel is a member of the Personal Injury Bar Association and of the DWF Injury Validation Unit panel.

Advocates



Christopher Hudson

Barrister, Senior Associate

Year of Call: 2017

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Since joining DWF Chambers in July 2018, Chris has built a broad civil practice representing both claimants and defendants, largely in commercial litigation, personal injury, and costs. Chris is regularly instructed to appear in final hearings including multi-track, fast track, and small claims trials. In addition to being a proficient and experienced trial advocate, Chris is routinely instructed in relation to interlocutory hearings, such as CCMCs, applications, CMCs, disposals, and stage 3s. He regularly receives instructions to draft advices, statements of case, applications, Part 35 questions, and witness statements.

In commercial litigation, Chris has developed broad experience in claims involving jurisdictional issues, contractual construction, software licence agreements, breach of contract, misrepresentation, and company disputes. Chris has a particular interest and aptitude in contract issues which has seen him instructed to appear in hearings and draft documents across a variety of practice areas where contractual disputes arise, including insurance, employment, and debt claims. Chris also has particular expertise in claims involving Data Protection and consumer claims.

In personal injury litigation, Chris takes on a wide range of instructions across many personal injury practice areas including motor claims, occupational health, catastrophic injury, and industrial disease, representing both claimants and defendants in the county court and high court as well as drafting statements of case, applications, and advices.

Chris has a lot of experience in civil litigation and is routinely involved in litigation from issue up to final hearings. He has a deep understanding of civil procedure and costs which ensures he achieves the best possible results for clients. Chris is praised by clients for his strong oral and written skills. He is particularly noted for his robust advocacy style and ability to get to the crux of a matter quickly and effectively. Chris is a member of the DWF Injury Validation Unit panel.

Advocates



Daniel Tresigne

Barrister, Senior Associate

Year of Call: 2016

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Daniel has been a member of DWF Chambers since September 2018, having gained previous experience in self-employed advocacy and file handling for a national solicitors firm. Since joining DWF Chambers as an Advocate, he has gone on to complete Pupillage under the supervision of Frances Lawley. During that time, his practice has expanded dramatically.

Daniel enjoys a varied practice across personal injury, including RTA, EL/PL litigation and inquests. Daniel also has experience dealing with claims involving breaches of human rights, and cases involving serving prisoners. In addition, Daniel has extensive experience in dealing with fraud and counter-fraud work, having secured multiple findings of fundamental dishonesty and costs orders setting aside QOCS protection.

Daniel also has experience with commercial and chancery litigation with a particular focus on consumer contracts, defamation and data protection claims. Included within his repertoire is insurance recoveries work, and enforcement of judgment debts.

Alongside this experience, Daniel has experience in numerous procedural and costs points which arise as part and parcel of his general practice, including more novel and complex points. This spans from issue and pre-issue of proceedings to trial and appeals; in small claims track, fast track and multi-track litigation in both the County Court and the High Court.

With a reputation as a pragmatic but unrelenting advocate, who is approachable for lay and professional clients alike, Daniel has achieved several notable results which exceed his call.

Daniel is a member of the Personal Injury Bar Association and of the DWF Injury Validation Unit panel.

Advocates



Jonathan Cosgrove

Barrister, Senior Associate
Year of Call: 2015

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Jonathan joined DWF Chambers in April 2019 having previously been part of the in-house legal department at Greater Manchester Police. It was there that Jonathan gained invaluable experience in areas such as personal injury, inquests and civil actions against the police. Jonathan has been able to build on this experience as an advocate, and his current practice incorporates a variety of different areas, including occupational health, insolvency and costs. Jonathan continues to work diligently for those who instruct him and can be found attending interlocutory hearings, small, fast and multi-track trials, advising in writing and drafting pleadings.

Jonathan is also experienced in employment cases and was recently successful in securing a six-figure award on behalf of a claimant and regulatory cases, including inquests and tribunals.

In 2021 Jonathan was successful in securing pupillage with DWF Chambers. In recognition of his substantial advocacy experience before commencing pupillage, the Bar Standards Board granted a four-month reduction from the normally required twelve months and in February 2022 became a fully qualified barrister.

Jonathan is a member of the Personal Injury Bar Association and of the DWF Injury Validation Unit panel.

Advocates



Neil Baki

Barrister, Senior Associate

Year of Call: 2003

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Neil joined DWF Chambers in 2023 after 20 years' experience at the self-employed Bar, where his practice encompassed high value and complex personal injury claims, inquests and health and safety law extremely complex white collar crime, commercial fraud and regulatory law (financial services & business regulation, NMC, HCPA, GMC, GDC),

Neil has been recognised by the Legal 500 as a leading junior since 2018. He has been instructed to lead and has been led in a number of complex and high value cases and traditionally his work is evenly split between representing companies, financial institutions as well as individuals.

Recent Notable Cases:

Arising out of fraudulent PI claims (low speed impact, staged accidents and fraud) Neil has represented insurance companies in many contempt proceedings and also, in bringing private prosecutions in the criminal court against individuals accused of fraudulent claims.

Inquest into the death of Mr F instructed on behalf of a consultant oncologist who treated the Deceased in the period immediately prior to his death.

NMC v AG 10 day hearing representing the registered nurse who failed to realise a care home resident had suffered a stroke.

El Haddad v Al Rostamani & Ors. Instructed with KC to represent the Claimant in a £1B partnership dispute alleging commercial fraud and asset stripping against his Partner and her family members as well as a member of the UAE Royal Family and their solicitor.

National Crime Agency v Gamble - Acted as lead counsel in a sophisticated multi-handed money laundering operation where 10 companies and associated bank accounts were used to launder the proceeds of wholesale drug dealing.

Advocates



Christopher Field

Barrister

Year of Call: 2010

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Christopher joined DWF Chambers in 2022 and brings with him a breadth of Civil Litigation experience.

Christopher is a Solicitor Advocate who qualified at a specialist Credit Hire practice where he handled a litigated caseload of up to 350 files and undertook advocacy on a range of different types of hearings.

Most recently Christopher worked with Merseyside Police in their Civil Litigation and Employment team where he gained exposure to a range of different matters including Civil Claims against the Police, Debt Recovery, Employment Claims, and EL/PL claims. Whilst working with Merseyside Police Christopher undertook multiple Public Interest Immunity hearings for which he gained particular interest.

In addition to his other experience, Christopher has worked in the Counter-Fraud department of a national defendant firm and held a management role within a national advocacy services provider.

Christopher's experience allows him to understand and further his client's needs at all stages of the litigation process, from the point of inception to conclusion.

Advocates



Christopher Neale

Solicitor Advocate

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Chris joined DWF Chambers in May 2022, having spent over four years working as an In-house Advocate for national claimant and defendant law firms whilst practicing as a Solicitor Advocate between 2018 and 2023.

Chris has extensive experience in civil litigation, personal injury and counter-fraud practice that include all elements of EL/PL and RTA litigation credit hire disputes, with particular interest in disputes containing allegations of fraud and fundamental dishonesty.

Chris is regularly instructed to attend on a wide and varied range of hearings at both the County and High Court, ranging from interlocutory matters, through to Fast Track Trials, CCMCs, appeal hearings and tribunal matters, as well as CRU Appeal hearings. Chris appears in Court on a daily basis, alongside maintaining a busy paperwork and advisory practice.

Chris also has a developed practice in tribunal work, and has appeared on behalf of a number of NHS trusts. He also has experience as a reviewing lawyer for private prosecutions brought arising from findings of fundamental dishonesty in civil proceedings.

His experience extends beyond his years as a qualified advocate. Following his call to the Bar in 2010 he worked over the next eight years as a solicitor's agent dealing with personal injury and property disputes, as an assistant to the Director of Prosecutions (Isle of Man) dealing with complex criminal cases; before returning to work for a leading claimant law firm practicing in personal injury; and to sit as a lay magistrate.

Chris welcomes instructions for oral advocacy, as well as advisory work and drafting of pleadings. Chris is a member of the DWF Injury Validation Unit panel.

Advocates



Dravin Bheemah

Barrister

Year of Call: 2010

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After a BA in Politics and Legal Studies at the University of Exeter, Dravin read for BA degrees in Business Studies and then Law, after which he took the Bar Vocational Course and a Masters in Advanced Legal Practice. Dravin was called to the Bar in 2010 and shortly thereafter he was headhunted by Stones Solicitors LLP (now part of Trowers & Hamblins) where he developed his advocacy skills working as an Employment Tribunal Advocate. Whilst working at Stones, Dravin cross-qualified as a solicitor via the Qualified Lawyers Transfer Test. Dravin then spent several years working as a solicitor (and subsequently a solicitor-advocate), specialising in Employment Law.

In September 2017, Dravin switched to the self-employed Bar and continued his work as an Employment specialist, but also represented hundreds of clients in a wide range of other civil claims, in particular Personal Injury cases. Over the last five years, Dravin has cultivated a successful practice at the Bar and he has provided representation for clients in complex and high value claims, some of which carried significant reputational risk for the parties involved.

In January 2023, Dravin moved to DWF Chambers where he continues to undertake Employment and civil work. Having worked as a solicitor for a number of years, Dravin understands perhaps better than most the pressures that solicitors face. Dravin welcomes the opportunity to speak with solicitors directly should they need to discuss a case for any reason.

Advocates



Jack Hickling

Barrister

Year of Call: 2015

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Jack joined DWF Chambers in December 2021 specialising in personal injury, however he has a wide range of experience in civil matters including consumer credit, contractual, housing, commercial disputes, and enforcement proceedings.

Jack completed pupillage under the supervision of Frances Lawley, having been granted a significant dispensation from the Bar Standards Board regarding his pupillage due to his previous experience as a County Court Advocate. Jack worked as a County Court Advocate for two national firms for a number of years, acting for both Claimant and Defendant, primarily cases arising out of road traffic accidents.

Jack is available for oral advocacy as well as advisory work (both in writing and in conference) and drafting of pleadings.

Jack is a member of the Personal Injury Bar Association and of the DWF Injury Validation Unit panel.

Advocates



Michael Vora

Solicitor Advocate

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Michael joined Chambers with several years' experience in various areas of Civil Litigation and Commercial Transactional work. Having previously worked as an Intelligence Analyst in a national Counter-Fraud team, Michael ventured into Real Estate Finance where he handled multi-million pound re-financing matters on behalf of development finance banks.

The majority Michael's experience lies in high-value Civil Litigation work, specialising in commercial disputes. Michael's experience includes working in a well-regarded professional indemnity team ranked tier 1 by the Legal 500. Upon joining Chambers in 2021, Michael is regularly instructed on a breadth of commercial and personal injury matters.

Prior to obtaining Higher Rights of Audience (Civil Proceedings), Michael was called to the Bar of England & Wales in 2019 and is an accredited ADR-ODR Civil and Commercial Mediator. Michael has experience in undertaking WP negotiations with the aim of achieving settlement in addition to conducting a wide variety of Civil trials.

Michael is a relatable and dedicated advocate who prides himself on consistently delivering a first class client service.

Advocates



Sarah Platts

Barrister

Year of Call: 2017

E Sarah.Platts@dwf.law

Sarah has been a member of DWF Chambers since September 2022, and has experience across the fast and multi-track including trials and appeals.

Commercial: Sarah has experience of a range of contractual disputes especially within a sale of goods and services context. Sarah is familiar with both business to business and consumer disputes.

Insolvency: Sarah has experience with both personal and corporate insolvency appearing regularly in bankruptcy and winding up hearings.

Property: Sarah has extensive property experience including both commercial and residential landlord and tenant disputes and has appeared in the County Court, High Court, Magistrates Court and First-Tier Tribunal on a wide variation of property matters. Other experience includes interim injunctions, boundary disputes, party wall disputes, breaches of covenant and rights of way.

Prior to commencing pupillage Sarah worked for a nationwide estate agent and her responsibilities included drafting and renewing leases for telecom masts.

Personal Injury: Sarah enjoys a varied practice across personal injury, including RTA, EL/PL and holiday sickness/injuries. Sarah also has experience with fraud and counter fraud work.

Alongside her experience in oral advocacy, Sarah has extensive experience in drafting pleadings and other statements of case including injunctions and advisory work; both written and in conference in all areas of her practice.

Advocates



Sean Batterton

Barrister

Year of Call: 2016

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Sean adopts a client-focused approach and has an excellent rapport with solicitors and clients. Sean prides himself in approaching advocacy with common sense and analysis, resulting in clear persuasive submissions.

Sean has a developing expertise in employment law and is gaining experience in cases involving unpaid wages, unfair dismissal, and discrimination cases.

Sean accepts instructions in all areas of personal injury work. He undertakes work for Claimants and Defendants at all levels and has experience in matters where fraud and fundamental dishonesty are alleged including LVI claims.

Sean regularly advises on both liability and quantum and drafts pleadings in employers' liability, public liability and road traffic claims.

Sean is a member of the Personal Injury Bar Association and of the DWF Injury Validation Unit panel.

Advocates



Lily Lawrie

Barrister

Year of Call: 2022

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Lily joined DWF Chambers as a Pupil in September 2022, having completed her Bar Professional Training Course ('BPTC') in the same year. She studied the BPTC part time at the BPP University London (Holborn) achieving a 'Very Competent'. The modules she excelled in were 'Resolutions of Disputes out of Court', 'Drafting', and 'Criminal Litigation', achieving an 'Outstanding' in each.

Her previous experience includes 5 years working in the small legal team of a rapidly growing, fast-paced multi-jurisdictional General Insurance Group. Her position had strong commercial and strategic focus, with emphasis on drafting, reviewing, and negotiating contracts; providing legal insight, opinion and advice; managing complaints litigation; and acting as the nominated legal advisor for complex or commercially significant projects. While working in this role she also became the first colleague to have been afforded full sponsorship to complete a BPTC. Lily attended the University of Liverpool to complete my LLB (Hons) where she obtained a 2:1, excelling in Company Law and Financial Services Law which she took as elective modules, achieving a 1st in each. In her third year she was also the winner of the University of Liverpool's Third Year Mooting Competition.

Advocates



Klaudia Klapsia

Pupil

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Klaudia joined DWF Advocacy in November 2021. Prior to this, she has completed her Bar Practice Course at the University of Law obtaining an overall grade of Very Competent along with achieving an Outstanding mark both in Civil Advocacy and Drafting. She has further completed a LLM Master of Laws degree achieving a Distinction.

Prior to joining DWF as an Advocate, Klaudia has acquired experience of handling a range of civil law cases, having worked in a number of paralegal roles for both Claimant and Defendant leading law firms. Klaudia regularly drafted pleadings and interim applications in a variety of areas of civil litigation, including personal injury, credit hire, insurance and fraud.

Building on this experience, Klaudia now appears in court on a daily basis in personal injury and insolvency matters, as well as road traffic and credit hire trials. She is also regularly instructed to act for both claimants and defendants in case management and procedural applications.

Advocates



Alastair Bloor

Advocate

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Alastair has experience in a range of civil litigation. As a DWF Advocate he welcomes instructions on:

Road traffic accident and credit hire trials;

Personal injury matters;

Insolvency/bankruptcy proceedings;

Procedural/interlocutory applications.

Prior to joining DWF, Alastair acquired experience handling a wide range of civil litigation as a paralegal at a leading north-based law firm, including: anti-social behaviour injunctions, possession orders, landlord/tenant disputes and commercial leasehold matters. Alastair has particular experience in drafting pleadings for such matters.

Alastair recently completed his Bar Training Course, obtaining an overall grade of Distinction. He was awarded one of the highest grades in his national cohort for his LLM Master of Laws dissertation on regulating emerging technology. He was awarded First-Class Honours in his undergraduate law degree, and has recently won awards in national and international advocacy competitions.

Advocates



Christian Mills

Advocate

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Christian joined DWF Chambers in October 2023 following completion of the Barrister Training Course ("BTC") in the same year. He studied the BTC full-time at BPP University in Leeds, achieving a Distinction and averaging 76% overall, where he was also awarded the BPP Careers Commitment Scholarship. Notable results were his 88% in Cross-Examination, 86% in Submission Advocacy, 84% in Criminal Litigation, 81% in Conference and 81% in Examination-in-Chief. Following completion of the BTC, Christian represented The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple in the International Moot Court Competition in Law and Religion in Milan, where he and his team were awarded 'Best Written Brief'.

Prior to the BTC, Christian worked for a year as a Paralegal at a leading global law firm, having oversight of the defence of hundreds of PPI claims against large client banks. His work required particular emphasis on identifying valid compromise payment wording, agreeing settlements, and drafting defences, witness statements and interim applications.

Christian completed the Graduate Diploma in Law at BPP University in Leeds in 2019/20, having read English & Related Literature at the University of York. Alongside his studies, he was the recipient of his college's 'Volunteer of the Year' and 'Sports Personality of the Year' awards in his final year at York.

Advocates



Hannilee Fish

Advocate

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Hannilee joined DWF Chambers in October 2023 having previously worked as a Tax Litigation Associate for a Tier 1 law firm where she assisted clients in disputing their complex and high value appeals against HMRC. Prior to this, Hannilee was a Tax Litigator for HMRC helping to regulate tax payers and their tax affairs by managing and appearing in appeals before the First-tier Tribunal. She gained experience in oral advocacy by conducting CMC's, procedural applications and tax appeals, and in drafting complex pleadings and skeleton arguments.

Hannilee sits as an Arbitrator Specialist Panel Member for the Sports Resolutions' UK Panel of Arbitrators on matters involving safeguarding, commercial and football. Additionally, she is a Panel Member for the Football Association. Hannilee is the recipient of 5 scholarships and multiple awards for her interests outside of law. She has completed her law degree and the BPTC where she attained a 'Very Competent' overall.

Since joining DWF Chambers Hannilee has appeared in small claims trials and procedural applications involving breaches of contract and road traffic collisions.

Advocates



Helen Hankey

Advocate

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Helen joined DWF Chambers in August 2022 having previously worked as a paralegal in a Claimant law firm, assisting with personal injury cases in the area of travel litigation. During this role, Helen assisted on high value cases and considered complex issues involving jurisdiction and foreign law. Helen also has experience in Real Estate Commercial and Residential Teams, where she assisted in post completion matters.

Helen has obtained a First Class law degree from Manchester Metropolitan University. During her studies, Helen secured first place in an internal mooted competition at the University. Helen completed the LLM in Legal Practice at the Bar at Manchester Metropolitan University, where she achieved a Distinction overall and a 'Very Competent' on the Bar Practice Training Course element. Helen achieved an 'Outstanding' mark in Civil Advocacy, Examination in Chief, Drafting, Opinion Writing and Resolution of Disputes Out of Court. Helen also volunteered at the Greater Manchester Law Centre, where she assisted clients in appealing decisions regarding their benefits and appeared in the First-Tier Tribunal.

Since joining DWF Chambers Helen is regularly instructed in small claims trials in relation to both liability and quantum, case management hearings and applications, as well as increasing her drafting experience for a variety of matters.

Advocates



Paige Dennison

Advocate

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Paige joined DWF Advocacy in January 2021 having spent the years since the completion of her BPTC in a variety of paralegal roles dealing with personal injury, housing, childcare and re-mortgaging so appreciates the demands of case management and handling client's expectations.

Since joining DWF Advocacy, Paige has established her practice predominantly in RTA work in attending small claims trials, CMCs and applications as well as increasing her drafting experience for a variety of matters including; witness statements in support of an application; witness statements for use at trial; defences and Particulars of Claim as well as advice on the prospects of success.

Whilst Paige's work at Advocacy has largely been Defendant focused, Paige has experience of acting for claimants so is able to assess and understand the position on both sides. Paige is praised by those instructing for the manner in which she takes conduct of the case and by her lay clients for being attentive and supportive pre and post-trial.

Paige also receives an increasing number of instructions to deal with Recovery matters dealing with Bankruptcy Petition hearings and Orders for Sale as she is able to deal with these confidently and concisely in being able to identify quickly what is required in these proceedings.

The majority of her work is dealing with RTA matters, however Paige has expanded her practice into Consumer and Contract matters with an increasing amount of instructions from BT and the commercial team which includes small claims trials, applications as well as the drafting of witness statements and defences.

Our Clerking Team



Our Clerking Team



Dan Monaghan

Director of Clerking &
Operations

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E Dan.Monaghan@dwf.law

Dan joined DWF in 2021 after 25 years spent clerking in external chambers.

Dan is responsible for the management of the clerking function, business development and leading operations at DWF Chambers. Dan assists all members of the team with their practice development and is passionate about providing a first-class service to all clients.

Working closely with the Head of Insurance Business Services, Dan strives to provide a first-class service to all clients and to assist all practice groups to provide bespoke and innovative products often in collaboration with our practice groups' current and new initiatives.

Dan is a Qualified Member of the Institute of Barristers Clerks. When time allows, Dan can be found riding or tinkering with his motorcycle or playing the guitar.

Our Clerking Team



Josh Finn

Deputy Director of Clerking

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Josh joined DWF in 2023 having spent 13 years clerking at Exchange Chambers in Manchester. In conjunction with Clerking, Josh is primarily responsible for the diary management and practice development of all members of the DWF Chambers team and, along with the team of experienced clerks, to ensure the delivery of a first class service to all clients.

Alongside the Head of DWF Chambers and Director of Clerking, Josh is responsible for the continued development of clerking practices to ensure the highest quality service at all times. Josh's role involves providing invaluable support to the Director of Clerking in the management and administration of the team and deputising in his absence.

In his spare time, Josh enjoys all manner of sports, but particularly Football and supports Manchester United. Josh also enjoys spending time with his family and friends and travelling to new places whenever the time allows!



Sarah Monaghan

Clerk

E Sarah.Monaghan@dwf.law

Sarah joined DWF in 2021.

She has many years experience in the legal profession having previously worked as a clerk in external chambers, a conveyancing assistant in a busy solicitors practice and as a PA to a number of barristers.

Our Clerking Team



Declan Fitzmaurice

Clerk

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Declan joined DWF in September 2022 from Cobden House Chambers, he began his clerking career in 2015 at Byrom Street Chambers.

He is responsible for day to day management of the diary and works closely alongside Josh Finn, Sarah Monaghan and Jonathan Moore. Outside of work he can be found attending gigs or avidly following Manchester United.



Jonathan Moore

Clerk

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Prior to joining DWF Chambers, Jonathan previously worked as a paralegal for 5 years.

One year in a small claims firm and the previous 4 within DWF itself, mainly working within Finance Litigation. Outside of work he enjoys going walking, attending as many Manchester United matches as possible and playing guitar.



The team in action

As well as substantial experience in CCMCs with fantastic results for clients, the team has a proven track record in final hearings.

Due to our team's exposure to so many such hearings, their experience is likely to far exceed that of external counsel of equivalent seniority. Add to this the speed and ease with which internal counsel/advocates can be booked and instructed, then the advantages of using DWF Chambers are clear and overwhelming.

Between May 2022 and April 2023:



DWF Chambers undertook 3970 court hearings



DWF Chambers undertook 1900 final hearings



The team helped to reduce damages claimed by in excess of £3.7m



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