



Guildhall
CHAMBERS



James Townsend Head of Chambers	1980	John Snell	1991	James Haskell	2004
Adrian Palmer QC	1972	Brendon Moorhouse	1992	Susan Cavendar	2004
Stephen Davies QC	1983	Gerard McMeel	1993	Louise Jones *	2004
Richard Smith QC	1986	Matthew Wales	1993	Oliver Moore	2005
Andrew Langdon QC	1986	Gabriel Farmer	1994	Jorren Knibbe	2005
Christopher Quinlan QC	1992	Mark Worsley	1994	Daisy Brown	2006
Hugh Sims QC	1999	Richard Ascroft	1995	Gabriel Beeby	2006
John Whitting QC *	1991	Rosaleen Collins	1996	Mary Cowe	2006
Kerry Barker	1972	Anna Vigars	1996	Rhys Hadden *	2006
George Newsom	1973	Ewan Paton	1996	Michael Selway	2007
Adam Chippindall	1975	Ramin Pakrooh	1996	Lucy Walker	2008
Ian Fenny	1978	Debbie Grennan	1997	Daniel Neill	2008
Malcolm Warner	1979	Rupert Lowe	1998	Holly Doyle	2008
William Batstone	1982	Katie Gibb	1999	Samuel Jones	2008
John Virgo	1983	Julian Allsop	1999	James Wibberley	2009
Ian Dixey	1984	Matthew Porter-Bryant	1999	Simon Passfield	2009
Christopher Brockman	1985	Jenny Tallentire	2000	Sophie Holme	2009
Neil Levy	1986	Pushpanjali Gohil	2000	Oliver Mitchell	2009
Rajinder Sahonte	1986	Robert Sowersby	2000	Caighli Taylor	2010
Ray Tully	1987	Tara Wolfe	2000	Geraint Probert	2010
Nicholas Gerasimidis	1988	Tim Walsh	2000	Gregory Gordon	2010
Jeremy Bamford	1989	Martin Lanchester	2001	Suzanne Staunton	2010
David Scutt	1989	James Bennett	2002	Matthew Brown	2011
Nicholas Smith	1990	Stefan Ramel	2002	Kriti Upadhyay	2011
Charles Thomas	1990	Tom Panton	2002	Jay Jagasia	2012
Virginia Cornwall	1990	Douglas Leach	2003	Alistair Haggerty	2012
Stephen Dent	1991	Ross Fentem	2003	James Bentley	2012
Selena Plowden	1991	Abigail Stamp	2004	James Hannant	2013
Julian Benson	1991	Allan Roberts	2004	Brittany Pearce	2015
Anthony Reddiford	1991				

*Door tenant

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“Our experience of the set changed our mind-set of just looking to London for barristers.”

Chambers UK 2016

About Us

This brochure is designed to give you a feel for our services, and to help you to decide if the expertise that we offer is right for you.

A few words about us. Our chambers is long-established in Bristol, but over the last two decades has become nationally known, winning the top awards, and now operates in London as well. The reason for our success, I believe, is that we were ahead of the rest of the Bar in recognising the need for ensuring that every barrister in chambers is a true specialist in his or her field: that success has enabled us to recruit and train people of the highest quality and, increasingly, barristers in established practice are asking to join us from other chambers. This means that clients choosing our barristers can be confident that they are very able, and really know their stuff.

On top of this – as the top independent guide to the Bar puts it – “the expertise of the barristers is matched by the quality of the clerks”: our clerks come from wide working backgrounds, including solicitors firms and the court service. This means that not only will you get excellent advice and advocacy, but you will be helped by an administrative team that understands how you work, and knows how to deal with the occasional urgent crises that litigation inevitably tends to throw up.

Please read the brochure and get in touch with any of our staff or members: or email me at jt@guildhallchambers.co.uk if you want to learn more.



James Townsend
Head of Chambers



James Townsend
Head of Chambers

Awards and Industry recognition

During the last year, Guildhall Chambers has been recognised as a leading set by both Chambers and Partners and Legal 500.

Winning Legal 500 “Set of the year – Regional Bar”

Shortlisted by Chambers and Partners for “Regional set of the year”

Star at the Bar, Hugh Sims QC, Chambers and Partners



“Guildhall Chambers is a leading set in the South West for all aspects of administrative and public law”

Chambers UK 2016



Administrative and Public law



Jorren Knibbe
Head of Administrative and Public Law

Our public law team offers expertise across a broad range of specialisms. We have particular strength in eight core areas:

- Environment
- Planning
- EU, competition and public procurement
- Local government and licensing
- Court of protection
- Health and social care
- Freedom of Information
- Immigration

We regularly act in judicial review proceedings and statutory appeals, on the Western circuit and beyond.

Our team includes members of the English and Welsh government panels and a number of barristers who accept public access instructions.

Our barristers:

- are executive committee members of the Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA) and the Procurement Lawyers' Association (PLA)
- co-ordinate events in the South West for the United Kingdom Environmental Lawyers' Association (UKELA)

- are founding members of the South West Administrative Lawyers' Association (SWALA), and committee members of the South West Court of Protection Practitioners Association (SWCoPPA)

“Peers say the group provides “sound advice, coupled with subtle advocacy skills capable of winning over the most formidable tribunal.”

Chambers UK 2016

Clinical Negligence

Guildhall Chambers is the leading clinical negligence set on the Western Circuit, with 30 years’ experience and 13 specialist barristers who are renowned as thorough, careful and efficient in their approach.

The team covers all levels of seniority and acts for a full range of clients including: public and privately funded Claimants, the NHSLA, NWSSP, Legal & Risk Services, Medical Defence organisations, and commercial providers of care.

In addition to clinical negligence work, members of the team also have considerable experience of acting in ancillary healthcare matters including:

- Professional disciplinary hearings in the MPTS (formerly GMC), the General Dental Council, and the Nursing and Midwifery Council.
- Inquests acting for both families and NHS Trusts
- Professional negligence claims arising out of the mismanagement of clinical negligence litigation by solicitors

Many of the team are also members of AVMA (Action for Victims of Medical Accidents), the PNBA (Professional Negligence Bar Association) and the Bristol Medico Legal Society.



Selena Plowden
Head of Clinical Negligence

“Our experience of the set changed our mindset of just looking to London for barristers.”

Chambers UK 2016



Commercial

Guildhall Chambers Commercial Team is a 21 strong practice group of barristers who specialise in commercial disputes. We have 2 silks and 19 juniors who work in the team. We offer all the benefits of a broad team structure, combining high levels of technical skill and professional expertise with a practical and modern approach. National recognition of our members has resulted in increasing instructions to work on cases being litigated in London and the South East, and we now provide services to the London market which provide competition to the leading London sets, including through our offices in London.

The Commercial Team attracts instructions across the whole range of commercial disputes but in particular we have developed recognition in three particular areas:

Banking and Finance

Members of the team have long-standing expertise and experience in banking, investment, insurance and consumer credit business. Clients include banks, stockbrokers, life insurers, general insurers, financial intermediaries, networks, trust companies and individuals (often those of high net worth). Expertise includes all aspects of bank recovery work as well as civil claims and disciplinary issues under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 regime. Our reported cases

go back to the pension mis-selling cases of the 1990s, and we have been involved in many modern financial issues, including those arising from swaps (Interest Rate Hedging Products), LIBOR manipulation, unregulated collective investment schemes (UCIS or non-mainstream pooled investments) and film finance and other tax-mitigation schemes.



Hugh Sims QC
Head of Commercial

“Guildhall is regarded as a Bristol-based set with national reach rather than a purely regional operation.”

Chambers UK 2016



Commercial

Professional indemnity and negligence

Our members are regularly instructed in substantial professional liability disputes involving a wide variety of professionals (including solicitors, accountants, surveyors, engineers, financial advisors, construction professionals and patent agents). Notable highlights include the following:

Acting for the successful lender in a professional negligence claim against financial due diligence accountants (Swynson v Lowick Rose), recovering £15m loss at first instance, upheld in the Court of Appeal. (This decision is now being appealed to the Supreme Court and

is listed to be heard in November 2016) Leading cases on the issue of recoverability of losses in market fall cases, in tort (*Rubenstein v HSBC*) and in contract (*JGP v Gubbins*).

“Clients appreciate the strength of its white-collar practice, admiring its work on fraud and other criminal-related matters that may arise within the financial services industry.”

Chambers UK 2016



Commercial

Company Disputes

Together with our well regarded insolvency team, members of the commercial team undertake a broad range of largely contentious company work. We have significant advisory and advocacy experience of shareholders' agreements, unfair prejudice petitions, derivative claims, just and equitable windings up, members' voluntary liquidations, challenges to share issues and transfers (including the operation of pre-emption rights), claims against directors for breaches of duty and breaches of trust, disqualification proceedings, financial assistance, restoration of companies to the register and related aspects. Members of the team are contributors to leading texts (including Gore-Brown

on Companies and Mithani: Directors' Disqualification).

Recent work includes:

Representing petitioner in relation to issue of company's authority (*Re Sherlock Holmes International Society*).

Advising in connection with failure by plc share registrar to notify shareholder of take-over offer.

Acting for successful respondents on appeal against summary determination of unfair prejudice petition by registrar (*Rubin v Parsons* [2016] EWHC 237 (Ch))

“Oliver Moore - A specialist costs barrister and head of the set’s costs and litigation funding team. He handles the full gamut of civil costs disputes and brings with him former experience as a solicitor with higher rights.”

Chambers UK 2016

Costs and Litigation Funding



Oliver Moore
Head of Costs and Litigation

Guildhall Chambers has a specialist Costs and Litigation Funding team with a growing reputation on the basis of the expertise of its barristers in this field.

The team includes two barristers, Oliver Moore and James Wibberley, who are recommended by Chambers & Partners in the nationwide listings for Costs Litigation. They are the only two practitioners recommended in the south of England (outside London) by Chambers and Partners for Costs Litigation.

The team’s specialists receive instructions from all over the country, regularly appearing in the Senior Court Costs Office in London.

The work of our barristers in this field covers all areas of civil practice.

We provide advice and representation across the full range of inter partes costs disputes and costs issues arising in litigation generally. The work of our specialists covers: disputes over the order for costs; costs management; advice and representation in respect of assessments of costs involving issues of principle and of high value (including settling costs pleadings and advising at costs settlement meetings); and costs appeals.

Our experience and expertise also covers advising on enforceability of funding

arrangements, issues of coverage and indemnity relating to BTE and ATE insurance, solicitor - own client disputes and professional negligence cases relating to costs and funding.

“The barrister you instruct is ordinarily the barrister you keep, something which has diminished in other sets.”

Chambers UK 2016



Crime



Ray Tully
Head of Crime

Guildhall Chambers is widely acknowledged as one of the leading specialist criminal sets in the country. A Western Circuit team with a National reputation.

Excellence in Court and unrivalled effective clerking support are the long standing hallmarks of the Guildhall Crime team. In a changing and ever demanding market, we continue to recognise the importance of exceptional client service. Guildhall Counsel pride themselves on the provision of prompt, accurate advice, together with quality effective advocacy, delivered in an approachable, understanding and caring manner. Guildhall clerks recognise, understand and consistently accommodate the specific needs of their professional clients in just the same caring and approachable way.

That level of caring excellence ensures that Guildhall are regularly instructed to prosecute and defend in the most serious and complex cases. We fully appreciate the importance of each and every case. If the allegation matters to you, then we care enough for it to matter to us and will provide a service reflecting that care and your expectations of us.

Our continued commitment to the recruitment of specialist advocates over many years has armed our team with an unrivalled strength in depth and enviably broad range of Counsel at every level of seniority.

Our criminal Team also has a wealth of experience in both the prosecution and defence of regulatory crime up and down the

country, most notably in the areas of Health and Safety and Environmental law. With that experience comes the understanding of how Guildhall can adapt its assistance to clients to ensure award winning support across a broad spectrum of regulatory, commercial and insurance backed cases.

“Members of this set act for both claimants and respondents, and receive instructions from all sizes of solicitors’ firms, local authorities and central government departments.”

Chambers UK 2016

Employment and Discrimination



Nicholas Smith
Head of Employment and Discrimination

Due to its ever-growing reputation as a national set of the highest quality, the team regularly attracts both regional and national enquiries from established employment practitioners at all levels, seeking to join what they regard as a dynamic and exciting set.

The team is able to offer a depth of expertise and quality of service to rival the very best that London has to offer. It provides specialist advocacy and advisory services across the full range of employment issues and covers both the employment tribunal and civil court arenas.

A significant proportion of the team’s work is in the civil arena, particularly in High Court matters relating to issues such as a breach of

confidence and restrictive covenants, as well as high value breach of contract claims.

Although primarily Bristol-based, the majority of the team’s instructions are from London and national firms and other national bodies such as the Government Legal Department, the Royal College of Nursing and the Police Federation.

Other clients include a range of NHS Trusts, Police Forces and Local Authorities, as well as a large number of Blue Chip organisations such as Siemens, BA and EEF.

Not surprisingly, the team has an unrivalled reputation across the Western Circuit, receiving outstanding levels of repeat

instructions from some of the most respected professional clients in the region.

The clerking support to the team is truly exceptional. Without exception, our clients receive an efficient and highly effective service which is tailored to their exact needs.

“Brendon Moorhouse - is a real environmental specialist who is great to work with and highly responsive.”

Chambers UK 2016

Environment and Planning



Brendon Moorhouse
Head of Environment
and Planning

We act for clients in inquiries, enforcement and judicial review proceedings across a range of environmental and planning matters. Recent examples of our work include:

- Appealing an enforcement notice issued by the Environment Agency in respect of works carried out to a weir
- Representing a local authority in protracted enforcement proceedings resulting from the breach of a planning injunction
- Advising a prospective purchaser about potential contaminated land liabilities and the best transactional structure to insulate liabilities
- Advising the liquidator of a company about recovery options under various carbon contracts with large energy suppliers
- Advising a developer in relation to whether a lawful commencement was achieved and whether the necessary conditions precedent had been satisfied
- Acting for the landowner in a two week public footpath inquiry, and in numerous town and village green inquiries

“Highly regarded nationally for insolvency, Guildhall Chambers’ team of ‘valued specialists’ is sought after for its ‘London-quality’ expertise.”

Legal 500 2015

Insolvency



Stephen Davies QC
Head of Insolvency

Based in Bristol and London, the team comprises two insolvency silks and ten juniors accomplished in the law and practice of insolvency.

Between them, members of the team have appeared in hundreds of reported insolvency cases and also edit or contribute to articles, specialist journals, law reports and books on the subject.

The team actively supports the Insolvency Lawyers' Association, with Jeremy Bamford as a member of its Council and Simon Passfield as a member of its technical committee. There is a commitment within the team to provide value to a high degree as advisers to and advocates for all stakeholders in insolvency disputes, including insolvency

office-holders, debtors, creditors and others.

The team is instructed by leading firms of insolvency lawyers, insolvency office-holders and regulatory bodies. It is recognised by clients and the leading legal directories for its depth of specialisation and the quality of its legal advice whilst retaining a commercial approach to complex problems.

Within the context of formal and informal insolvency processes, team members have particular experience in:

- asset recovery, including obtaining/resisting freezing orders and other ancillary relief
- directors' liabilities and misfeasance proceedings

- prosecuting and defending directors' disqualification proceedings
- defending and prosecuting disciplinary matters concerning insolvency office-holders
- defending and pursuing disputes with insolvency office-holders
- provisional liquidations and MTIC frauds
- cross-border issues
- non-contentious insolvency issues, corporate recovery and turnaround

Members of the team also act for public authorities, including Official Receivers, HM Revenue & Customs and the Government Legal Service.

“The set’s barristers act on behalf of both claimants and defendants, not only on the Western Circuit, but also across the country.”

Chambers UK 2016

Personal Injury



Gabriel Farmer
Head of Personal Injury

Barristers within the team are widely applauded for their robust professionalism, accessibility and approachability. The quality of the service provided is the consequence of both an excellent clerking team and members being truly specialised in personal injury law.

The team focus primarily upon the following niche areas (injury and medical):
Serious injury in the form of:

- Paralysis and amputation (including claims for adapted accommodation, prosthetics, etc.)
- Brain injury (including cases of subtle or paediatric injury)
- Death (inquests and fatal accident claims)

- Orthopaedic and soft tissue injuries of all types
- Psychological injury (PTSD and lesser conditions)
- Chronic pain (including Fibromyalgia, CRPS [Complex Regional Pain Syndrome],
- Industrial disease (including asbestos-related conditions, VWF, deafness, stress, asthma, dermatitis and repetitive strain)
- Foreign torts
- Sports injury
- Insurance
- Animals Act claims
- Product liability
- Criminal injury compensation

Liability disputes:

- Road traffic litigation (including accidents, fraud, policy issues, MIB claims and credit hire)
- Employer/employee liability
- Public/occupier liability

“Peers say the group provides sound advice, coupled with subtle advocacy skills capable of winning over the most formidable tribunal.”

Chambers UK 2016



Regulatory Discipline

Guildhall Chambers has a strong history of providing expertise in the field of medical regulation, with members appearing before a range of regulators, both as Counsel and legal assessors: we are the leading set on the Western Circuit in this field, practising nationally.

Members have been involved regularly with the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service, Health and Care Professions Council, General Dental Council and Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Advocacy is provided both for registrants and the regulators, with members having a wide range of experience both in the tribunals and at the appellate level, involved in leading cases

such as *White and others v NMC* [2014] EWHC 520 Admin (hearsay and anonymous witness evidence) *Perry v NMC* [2012] 2275 Admin (Human Rights considerations in interim orders). In addition, members provide advocacy at inquests and inquiries (e.g. appearances at both of Robert Francis QC’s inquiries into the Mid Staffordshire Hospital).

Members also provide advice to regulators on how (and whether) to pursue prosecutions, second opinions on appeals, and more general policy advice on, for example, regulators’ policies and procedures and sanctions guidelines.



James Townsend
Head of Regulatory Discipline

“A truly impressive set acting across the full spectrum of real estate disputes including boundary disputes, nuisance claims and restrictive covenants.”

Chambers UK 2016



Property and Estates



Tim Walsh
Head of Property and Estates

One of the few dedicated and genuinely specialist teams of chancery practitioners outside London, our barristers possess a wealth of knowledge and experience as well as an open and commercially astute approach to dealing with clients. Guildhall's focus on specialism ensures that our team possesses a strength and depth in membership that is unique both outside, and to some extent inside, London. Our clerks are therefore in a position to offer our clients a broad range of choice depending on the complexity or value of the matter.

As chancery practitioners, the team's practice and expertise covers all forms of real property, landlord and tenant law and trusts, in addition to specialist areas such as agricultural

property, planning, court of protection and wills and estates. Several members of our team also specialise in professional negligence claims, including cases involving solicitors, valuers and other property professionals.

Our members are regularly instructed by both local and national firms of solicitors and the team itself is consistently recommended in Chambers UK and the Legal 500. We are also one of the largest national providers of specialist seminars to solicitors. We are proud to count the editor of [Preston and Newsom: Restrictive Covenants Affecting Freehold Land](#) (10th ed. 2013) as one of our cohort.

“Richard Smith QC - Highly regarded for his sports disciplinary practice which covers both doping and player misconduct cases. He enjoys a particularly high profile for his work in Rugby Union.”

Chambers UK 2016

Sport



Richard Smith QC
Head of Sport

Our sports barristers provide specialist advocacy and advisory services to the sports sector both throughout the United Kingdom and abroad. We have long supported competitive sport at local, national and international level.

Our unique knowledge, experience and proven expertise gives all our clients a genuinely competitive edge in the prompt, cost effective resolution of sports-related disputes.

We represent clients from a wide range of different sporting backgrounds; from internationally renowned sportsmen, professional clubs and national sporting bodies, to individual amateur athletes.

The winning mentality of our barristers is recognised across a broad spectrum of sporting disciplines including rugby, football, horse racing, motor-racing, athletics, fencing, snooker and swimming.

We understand that issues in modern day sport cross many boundaries. We can call upon expertise not only in disciplinary and regulatory hearings, but also have comprehensive experience in sports related contract, professional negligence, insolvency, commercial, competition, criminal and employment law matters.

In a field where team work is well understood, our barristers are supported by clerks whose

efficiency and experience in the administration and organisation of sports related hearings and procedures is unrivalled. We make things sportingly simple for you, and are able to act quickly in fast moving situations.

“It is a perfect mix of informal professionalism which creates a hassle-free and trusting relationship for solicitors and clients alike.”

Chambers UK 2016

Clerks

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