
CHAMBERS UK BAR 2023

The Leading Barristers and Sets in the UK

Professional Negligence



How lawyers are ranked

Every year we carry out thousands of in-depth interviews with clients in order to assess the reputations and expertise of business lawyers worldwide. The qualities we look for (and which determine rankings)

include technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial awareness/astuteness, diligence, commitment, and other qualities most valued by the client.

Contents:

- London p.611
- London Technology & Construction p.621
- Midlands p.626
- Northern p.627
- Western p.628

London

Professional Negligence	Professional Negligence	Professional Negligence
Leading Sets	Leading Silks	
Band 1	Star individuals	Howe Timothy Fountain Court Chambers
4 New Square Chambers	Fenwick Justin 4 New Square Chambers *	Jones Nigel Gatehouse Chambers A
Band 2	Pooles Michael Hailsham Chambers	Jones Philip Serle Court *
Brick Court Chambers	Stewart Roger 4 New Square Chambers *	Mitchell Paul 4 New Square Chambers *
Fountain Court Chambers	Band 1	Mulcahy Leigh-Ann Fountain Court Chambers *
Hailsham Chambers	Adam Tom Brick Court Chambers	Onslow Andrew 3 Verulam Buildings
4 Pump Court	Croxford Ian Wilberforce Chambers	Pilling Benjamin 4 Pump Court
Wilberforce Chambers	Davidson Nicholas Hailsham Chambers	Plewman SC Thomas Brick Court Chambers
Band 3	Day Anneliese Fountain Court Chambers *	Quiney Ben Crown Office Chambers *
Crown Office Chambers	Edelman Colin Devereux (ORL) D *	Rowley Keith Radcliffe Chambers
7 King's Bench Walk	Flenley William Hailsham Chambers	Rushton Nicola Hailsham Chambers
3 Verulam Buildings	Gaisman Jonathan 7 King's Bench Walk	Savage Amanda 4 New Square Chambers *
Band 4	Howard Mark Brick Court Chambers	Seitler Jonathan Wilberforce Chambers
Gatehouse Chambers	Hubble Ben 4 New Square Chambers *	Shapiro Daniel Crown Office Chambers
Maitland Chambers	Lawrence Patrick 4 New Square Chambers *	Sinclair Fiona 4 Pump Court
Radcliffe Chambers	Lord Tim Brick Court Chambers	Singla Tony Brick Court Chambers
Serle Court	McPherson Graeme 4 New Square Chambers A *	Stanley Clare Wilberforce Chambers
2 Temple Gardens	Patten Ben 4 New Square Chambers *	Band 4
* Indicates individual with profile.	Sabben-Clare Rebecca 7 King's Bench Walk	Carpenter Jamie Hailsham Chambers *
A direct access.	Salzedo Simon Brick Court Chambers	Cutress James Fountain Court Chambers
D (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	Simpson Mark Fountain Court Chambers *	Dumont Thomas Radcliffe Chambers
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	Smith Jamie 4 New Square Chambers *	George Andrew Blackstone Chambers (ORL) D
	Tozzi Nigel 4 Pump Court	Hext Neil 4 New Square Chambers *
	Wardell John Wilberforce Chambers	Hollander Charles Brick Court Chambers
	Band 2	Liddell Richard 4 New Square Chambers *
	Ayliffe James Wilberforce Chambers	Lightman Daniel Serle Court *
	Chapman Graham 4 New Square Chambers *	Lynch Ben Fountain Court Chambers
	Cousins Jeremy Radcliffe Chambers	Mirchandani Siân 4 New Square Chambers *
	Dale Derrick Fountain Court Chambers	Moxon Browne Robert 2 Temple Gardens
	Dougherty Charles 2 Temple Gardens *	Oppenheimer Tamara Fountain Court Chambers *
	Dutton CBE Timothy Fountain Court Chambers *	Padfield Alison 4 New Square Chambers
	Elkington Ben 4 New Square Chambers *	Sandells Nicole 4 New Square Chambers *
	Grant Thomas Wilberforce Chambers	Saoul Daniel 4 New Square Chambers *
	Halpern David 4 New Square Chambers *	Scott Tiffany Wilberforce Chambers
	Newman Paul Wilberforce Chambers	Short Andrew Outer Temple Chambers (ORL) D
	Turner David 4 New Square Chambers *	Spalton George 4 New Square Chambers *
	Weitzman Tom 3 Verulam Buildings	Spink Andrew Outer Temple Chambers (ORL) D
	Band 3	Stallworthy Nicolas Outer Temple Chambers (ORL) D
	Brocklebank James 7 King's Bench Walk	Trompeter Nicholas Selborne Chambers (ORL) D A
	Christie Aidan 4 Pump Court	Yates David Pump Court Tax Chambers (ORL) D
	de Waal John Gatehouse Chambers A	New Silks
	Dixon Clare 4 New Square Chambers *	Evans Helen 4 New Square Chambers *
	Douglas Michael 4 Pump Court	Howarth Simon Hailsham Chambers
	Hough Jonathan 4 New Square Chambers *	Polley Alexander One Essex Court (ORL) D *

Band 1

4 New Square Chambers

THE SET

4 New Square offers unparalleled capabilities in the area of professional negligence, regularly attracting key instructions for and against professionals in the legal, financial and insurance sectors. The set excels in any case involving advice on financial planning, investments, tax liability, property or the conduct of litigation. It is notable for its deft handling of the high-value and the legally complex, including a number of recent cases on limitation, or causation, or successor practices in claims against solicitors. The barristers have continued to appear in fora up to and including the Supreme Court. This year they have appeared in leading cases such as Aurium Real Estate London Ultra Prime v Mishcon de Reya.

Client service:

Lizzy Stewart leads the clerking team.

"Lizzy Stewart is a real leader. Her personality shines through and has done for many a year. Her team is a well-oiled machine. They're always there when you need them."

"They will always find the right person for the job."

"They respond to queries promptly and with attention to detail."

"The clerk, Jack Boggans, is approachable, commercial and user-friendly."

SILKS

Justin Fenwick KC (see p.835) Justin Fenwick KC is

a standout professional negligence silk who is well versed in both UK-based and offshore commercial litigation. A formidable advocate, he is particularly adept at handling professional negligence and related insurance matters that involve significant elements of fraud or dishonesty. His work pertains to various individuals, including auditors, tax advisers, insolvency practitioners, valuers and lawyers.

Strengths:

"He is enormously experienced and provides sound

advice. He is a trial advocate almost without peer in professional negligence."

"Justin is unflappable, he has a huge presence in court and is a star cross-examiner."

Roger Stewart KC (see p.933) Roger Stewart KC is renowned for his skill in handling indemnity claims and related coverage matters. He acts for a comprehensive range of clients and has recently focused in particular on claims concerning patent agents and lawyers. He has contributed over the years to the lit-

Professional Negligence	
Leading Juniors	
Band 1	
Allen Scott	4 New Square Chambers *
Bacon Francis	Hailsham Chambers
Evans Hugh	4 New Square Chambers *
Holwill Derek	Hailsham Chambers
Livesey Kate	4 Pump Court
Phipps Charles	4 New Square Chambers *
Troman Carl	4 New Square Chambers
Wilton Simon	Hailsham Chambers A
Band 2	
Barter Isabel	2 Temple Gardens *
Bowmer Michael	4 New Square Chambers *
Collett Ivor	Crown Office Chambers
Evans-Tovey Jason	Crown Office Chambers
Patel Shail	4 New Square Chambers *
Smiley Ben	4 New Square Chambers *
Yeo Nik	Fountain Court Chambers *
Band 3	
Asquith Tom	4 New Square Chambers *
Benson Imran	Hailsham Chambers
Chelmick Timothy	4 New Square Chambers *
Colter Lucy	4 New Square Chambers *
Hale Simon	4 Pump Court
Hall James	Gatehouse Chambers
Harris Miles	4 New Square Chambers *
Harrison Edward	Brick Court Chambers
Innes Stephen	4 New Square Chambers *
Manby Pippa	4 New Square Chambers *
Powell Katie	Atkin Chambers (ORL) ◇ *
Ryan Michael	7 King's Bench Walk
Stacey Dan	Hailsham Chambers
Wood Benjamin	4 New Square Chambers *
Band 4	
Bankes-Jones Henry	Hailsham Chambers
Bennett Natasha	Fountain Court Chambers *
Boon Elizabeth	Crown Office Chambers
Broomfield Nicholas	4 New Square Chambers *
Faulkner Benjamin	Wilberforce Chambers
Goudkamp James	7 King's Bench Walk
Greenwood Christopher	4 New Square Chambers *
Hill Nicholas	Outer Temple Chambers (ORL) ◇
Jackson Hugh	Selborne Chambers (ORL) ◇
Jackson Matthew	Hailsham Chambers
Jones Anthony	4 New Square Chambers *
Knowles Christopher	Fountain Court Chambers *
Leslie Nico	Fountain Court Chambers
McCann Sarah	Gatehouse Chambers A
Munro Joshua	Hailsham Chambers A
Nolten Sonia	2 Temple Gardens *
O'Neill Francesca	Deka Chambers (ORL) ◇ *
O'Reilly Niamh	Hailsham Chambers
Ogden Thomas	4 New Square Chambers *
Parker Paul	4 New Square Chambers *
Ratcliffe Peter	3 Verulam Buildings
Sharpe James	Crown Office Chambers
Shaw Sophie	Brick Court Chambers
Shepherd Tom	4 New Square Chambers *
Tew Alicia	Hailsham Chambers
Wright Harry	7 King's Bench Walk
Up-and-coming individuals	
Steer Jack	Hailsham Chambers

* Indicates individual with profile.

[A](#) direct access.

[◇](#) (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

erature on the subject of professional liability, and is instructed at the appellate stage in some of the most important cases in the area.

Strengths:

"Very calm, measured and knows what he's doing in all stages. He is always looking at the commercially sensible approach."

Ben Hubble KC (see p.860) Ben Hubble KC is a specialist in professional liability. He is highly regarded for his ability to take the lead in complex, multiparty litigation. He has a strong track record of handling claims against lawyers, accountants and actuaries, and is also experienced with negligence disputes in relation to divorce settlements. He is the Senior Decision Maker for the Guernsey Financial Services Commission.

Strengths:

"A complete joy to work with. Clients and solicitors love him for his calm, patient manner and his fiendishly good advice."

"A great team payer; he's calm and measured and has huge respect from the judges."

"An excellent advocate, with a real affinity for generating trust with clients. A pleasure to work with."

Patrick Lawrence KC (see p.877) Patrick Lawrence KC is an esteemed practitioner who has a long history of acting in professional negligence cases, particularly in the financial services sector. He is eminently capable of handling litigation all the way up to the Supreme Court. He has appeared in scores of cases resulting from failed securitisations and has copious experience of claims brought against insurers and brokers, solicitors and professionals in the real estate sector.

Strengths:

"Patrick has huge experience, sees the big picture and is able to articulate the heart of the case. He is a superb advocate."

"Patrick is one of the best advocates on his feet. He is a very calm, reassuring presence."

"Patrick is an extremely experienced and knowledgeable KC. Clients adore him."

Graeme McPherson KC (see p.889) Graeme McPherson KC is known for the great strength of his professional negligence and discipline practice, and expertly handles complex commercial litigation, as well as ADR proceedings. He is most often involved in cases concerning financial advisers and solicitors, although he has also advised on claims relating to the conduct of professionals in the sport and music industries.

Strengths:

"All over the detail and a great advocate. Very client-friendly."

Ben Patten KC (see p.907) Ben Patten KC is a specialist in professional negligence and construction matters, and has experience handling cases in the Commercial Court, TCC and Chancery Division, as well as through arbitration. He is highly regarded for his expertise in claims involving professionals in the construction, financial services and legal sectors.

Strengths:

"Ben is very analytical, which is very important in a high-value professional negligence claim."

"A very good professional negligence silk."

Jamie Smith KC (see p.931) Jamie Smith KC is an outstanding professional negligence specialist barrister whose practice continues to flourish in silk. He is a go-to adviser and advocate for high-value negligence claims, particularly those involving solicitors and valuers. He also has a commendable reputation for his work in cases containing allegations of fraud.

Strengths:

"He is very careful, very conscientious, very caring and just a superb practitioner."

"Extremely hard-working, an extraordinary intellect and a delightful person."

"He has technical expertise coupled with a charming and endearing manner."

Graham Chapman KC (see p.810) Graham Chapman KC is a highly regarded commercial barrister who acts for claimants and defendants in a range of professional negligence matters. He advises in cases of auditors', solicitors' and valuers' negligence, particularly in relation to substantial tax, financial and property concerns. He is well equipped to handle cases with an international aspect. He is also a contributor to the academic literature of the field.

Strengths:

"He is the complete package: thorough, creative, dynamic and client-focused. One of the best at the Bar for what he does."

Ben Elkington KC (see p.832) Ben Elkington KC has a diverse practice taking in extensive insurance and property damage work alongside professional negligence cases. His expertise in insurance brokers' negligence is well noted, and he also tackles claims relating to solicitors, tax advisers, valuers and barristers.

Strengths:

"Very personable."

David Halpern KC (see p.848) David Halpern KC is a highly experienced silk whose commercial chancery experience feeds into his sophisticated professional negligence practice, and who has been involved in numerous appellate cases of substantial legal importance to the field. He handles a broad range of claims arising from business, trust and property disputes, and also takes on cases involving insurance elements. He acts for both claimants and defendants.

Strengths:

"He has an excellent legal brain and produces wonderful advocacy."

David Turner KC (see p.942) David Turner KC handles professional negligence claims brought against construction professionals, insurance brokers, accountants and solicitors, among others. He is particularly adept at representing defendants in cases of alleged negligent tax and auditing advice, including pre-packaged schemes for tax mitigation.

Strengths:

"Incredibly decisive; once he decides on a strategy he goes for it."

Clare Dixon KC (see p.827) Clare Dixon KC has broad expertise in professional negligence matters, encompassing a wide range of claims against solicitors, barristers, insurance brokers and valuers. She often takes on cases that involve additional elements of fraud or wasted costs, and is recognised for her robust advocacy.

Strengths:

"She's excellent and provides accessible advice."

"She's one of the brightest barristers I've ever come across. She's very good at handling personalities within the team."

Jonathan Hough KC (see p.859) Jonathan Hough KC has appeared in a number of substantial professional negligence cases, including those which have contributed to the clarification of the law. He acts for and against an impressive range of professionals, including lawyers, surveyors and financial advisers.

Strengths:

"His written work is really good, as are the opinions he produces for clients."

Paul Mitchell KC (see p.895) Paul Mitchell KC has considerable expertise in professional liability cases relating to financial advisers, accountants, solicitors and barristers. He represents claimants and defendants alike, in court as well as in alternative dispute resolution proceedings.

Strengths:

"He is able to manage complex cases with ease."

Amanda Savage KC (see p.923) Amanda Savage KC has a strong practice handling negligence claims against valuers, financial sector professionals and lawyers, alongside additional experience in wasted costs cases. She is regularly instructed in claims arising from legal advice given on property and matrimonial finance matters.

Strengths:

"She's excellent technically and has a collaborative approach."

Neil Hext KC (see p.854) Neil Hext KC is a well-regarded silk with recognised expertise in a range of professional negligence claims. He acts for both claimants and defendants, and is especially experienced in complex matters involving insurance brokerage.

Strengths:

"He's meticulous, calm, pragmatic, and a very good, down-to-earth communicator."

"Neil is a pleasure to work with. Incredibly intelligent and takes a hands-on approach that achieves results."

Richard Liddell KC (see p.879) Richard Liddell KC manages a healthy caseload of professional negligence work that includes claims against civil and structural engineers, accountants, barristers and solicitors. He takes on claimant and defendant work, and has advocacy experience that extends all the way up to the Supreme Court. His clients benefit from his wider practice in handling sport-related claims.

Strengths:

"He is very commercial and gives practical, focused advice."

Siân Mirchandani KC (see p.894) Siân Mirchandani KC is regularly instructed in negligence claims concerning financial, legal and construction professionals, acting for both claimant and defendant parties. Her scientific background enables her to handle highly technical claims with aplomb.

Strengths:

"She's an intellectual giant and she inspires confidence in all she does. She's tenacious and hard-working, she gains the confidence of the client and she's a very good communicator."

Alison Padfield KC Alison Padfield KC has particular expertise in professional negligence claims brought against insurance brokers, drawing on her wider experience as a leading insurance silk. She is also well versed in the defence and prosecution of actions against solicitors, financial advisers, architects and others.

Strengths:

"She writes beautifully and makes wonderful submissions."

Nicole Sandells KC (see p.923) Nicole Sandells KC is an authoritative source of advice on professional negligence matters relating to areas including mortgage brokerage, insolvency and tax advice. Many of her cases involve consideration of breach of trust, fiduciary duty and other equitable principles. She has appeared in important cases before the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

Strengths:

"Nicole is gregarious and witty. She immerses herself in the case and always brings insight to the matter."

Daniel Saoul KC (see p.923) Daniel Saoul KC has a thriving professional negligence practice which predominantly comprises high-value claims against solicitors, representing claimants and defendants. He particularly focuses on cases with an international or commercial angle.

Strengths:

"He is always clear and concise and clients really do warm to his style."

George Spalton KC (see p.932) George Spalton KC is very capable of handling professional negligence claims against lawyers and accountants, among others. In addition to his wide experience in the Commercial Court and Court of Appeal he also has a strong reputation for international arbitration.

Strengths:

"He inspires a lot of confidence in clients and he's very efficient and skilled."

Helen Evans KC (see p.833) Helen Evans KC is regularly instructed in high-profile professional negligence cases against insurance brokers, surveyors, lawyers and financial professionals. She demonstrates proficiency in large-scale litigation involving multiple parties.

Strengths:

"Helen is great to work with. She is efficient and available despite being in huge (and well-deserved) demand."

JUNIORS

Scott Allen (see p.784) Scott Allen is an experienced barrister who is instructed in cases featuring a diverse selection of professionals, including solicitors, valuers and receivers. He has appeared in a number of high-profile and precedent-setting cases.

Strengths:

"A pleasure to work with and a client-friendly barrister."

"He's impressive in court and has an efficient, well-considered style."

Hugh Evans (see p.833) Hugh Evans is highly experienced in the field of professional negligence, with additional experience in insurance matters and costs litigation. He represents claimants and defendants alike, and has a particular focus on claims against solicitors and other parties involved in property transactions. He is a respected contributor to the academic literature regarding professional liability.

Strengths:

"He is a go-to junior for professional negligence: very sharp and analytical."

Charles Phipps (see p.909) Charles Phipps represents a broad range of clients, in particular defendant lawyers and accountants. He has a particular specialism in claims relating to obligations of confidentiality and privilege.

Strengths:

"An excellent academic lawyer."

"Charles is very responsive and extremely intelligent, with the ability to untangle complex cases."

"Incredibly bright and has a wide range of knowledge. He is one of the juniors of choice."

Carl Troman Carl Troman focuses particularly on professional negligence claims relating to solicitors, accountants, construction professionals and insurance brokers. He is regularly instructed in complex and high-value litigation concerning multiple parties.

Strengths:

"A strong barrister who always adds value."

Michael Bowmer (see p.801) Michael Bowmer is recognised for his professional liability expertise within the context of a chancery-related practice. He is a strategically minded barrister who represents claimants and defendants in claims involving valuers, accountants, solicitors and other professionals. He also handles claims arising out of insolvency matters.

Strengths:

"Extremely knowledgeable and approachable. Technically superb and a genuine pleasure to work with."

Shail Patel (see p.907) Shail Patel specialises in high-end commercial disputes, including significant professional negligence and related insurance cases. He has advised on cases concerning property investments, trusts and tax advice, and regularly acts for both claimant and defendant parties. He has appeared in a number of significant cases in the High Court and the Court of Appeal.

Strengths:

"Shail can explain complex things clearly and simply, and always has commercial tactics in mind, thinking one step ahead."

"He has a clear and measured advocacy style that wins favour with judges. Very user-friendly and a real asset to the team."

Ben Smiley (see p.930) Ben Smiley represents insurance brokers, insolvency professionals and financial advisers, among others. He is a highly esteemed barrister who has acted as sole counsel in a number of significant cases in the professional negligence field.

Strengths:

"No doubt one of the stars of the junior Bar; his paperwork is thorough and well drafted, and he is an extremely able lawyer."

"He is incredibly hard-working; he's one of the best juniors around and is undoubtedly a star of the future."

Tom Asquith (see p.788) Tom Asquith is a barrister who possesses experience in a broad range of professional negligence matters for accountants, solicitors and surveyors. He is capable of acting as sole counsel and has been instructed in relation to high-value claims and cases requiring knowledge of foreign jurisdictions.

Strengths:

"Tom is measured in his thinking and does not let anything get past him."

Timothy Chelmick (see p.811) Timothy Chelmick can claim proficiency in a comprehensive array of professional negligence claims, acting for claimants and defendants. Encompassing cases concerning legal, financial and construction professionals, his practice has an increasing focus on international work, particularly in the Middle East. He brings a scientific background to technical cases, having previous professional experience as a software developer, as well as a degree in chemistry.

Strengths:

"Tim has always fought hard for our client, who I know appreciates his clear vision and understanding of the case."

Lucy Colter (see p.816) Lucy Colter has a flourishing practice in the professional liability space that includes cases concerning insurance brokers, investment managers and barristers, among others. She is also adept at handling claims against construction professionals, including project managers, architects and quantity surveyors. She has developed an impressive understanding of claims resulting from failed syndicate investments.

Strengths:

"Great to work with; she's a team player, who is down to earth and very bright."

Miles Harris (see p.850) Miles Harris is a professional liability specialist barrister who tackles matters relating to a broad range of financial and legal service providers, as well as disputes concerning professional indemnity insurance. He is capable of acting for both claimants and defendants, and regularly undertakes alternative dispute resolution as well as litigation. He appears both led and as sole counsel.

Strengths:

"Miles is an excellent all-rounder."

Stephen Innes (see p.862) Stephen Innes leverages his experience practising as a barrister in areas such as employment, insurance, consumer credit and chancery law to undertake challenging professional negligence claims. He is particularly knowledgeable about lenders' claims, which often concern mortgage securitisation, fraud, subrogation and breach of trust issues. He also handles claims brought under the Inheritance Act. He receives instructions from both claimants and defendants.

Strengths:

"Stephen is an astute and experienced barrister."

Pippa Manby (see p.884) Pippa Manby possesses a strong reputation in the professional negligence sphere, with notable strength in cases relating to financial transactions. She typically acts for lawyers or accountants in high-value cases involving advice on investments or tax liabilities.

Strengths:

"Pippa Manby is very astute and easy to work with. She is able to simplify complex issues in a straightforward manner."

Benjamin Wood (see p.956) Benjamin Wood draws upon his previous career as a corporate financier to advise on complex professional liability issues in the financial sector. He has experience acting for both claimants and defendants in major litigation, and has appeared in the High Court and Court of Appeal, acting both as junior counsel and unled. He also handles claims against a range of other professionals, including solicitors, and acts in disputes between professionals and their indemnity insurers.

Strengths:

"Absolutely brilliant with clients."

"Ben is excellent and strategy is a particular strength of his. He works collaboratively as part of the legal team and provides sound commercial advice."

Nicholas Broomfield (see p.803) Nicholas Broomfield is an impressive barrister with a broad professional negligence practice covering lawyers, financial advisers, architects and others. He has acted in high-profile cases in the field and has notable expertise in relation to wills and probate, and mortgages.

Strengths:

"A team player, who provides user-friendly advice and is a pleasure to work with."

"Nick is tactically creative and has a good awareness of what a judge will like."

Christopher Greenwood (see p.845) Christopher Greenwood frequently defends a range of professional clients including lawyers, financial advisers, surveyors and construction professionals against negligence claims. He additionally handles some claimant-side work. Recently, he has acted in a number of claims arising from tax avoidance schemes.

Strengths:

"He's brilliant in writing and with experts. He takes the time to explain things to clients. He's really user-friendly and commercial."

"Chris is a very capable barrister with strong client skills."

Anthony Jones (see p.865) Anthony Jones is a barrister with a growing reputation for his skilful representation of solicitors and other professionals, typically in negligence actions relating to the conduct of litigation, or advice on investments.

Strengths:

"Technically brilliant, he can produce an astonishing amount in a short space of time."

Thomas Ogden (see p.904) Thomas Ogden is held in high esteem by a number of specialist solicitors, who instruct him in substantial negligence claims involving architects, solicitors or financial services professionals. He acts for claimants and defendants.

Strengths:

"Tom is excellent and is my go-to junior of choice. He is bright, easy to work with, an exceptional lawyer, and a thoroughly nice person."

Paul Parker (see p.907) Paul Parker is a highly experienced barrister whose practice in professional liability encompasses claims against virtually all non-medical professions. This includes cases involving solicitors, barristers, accountants, insurance brokers and numerous others. Recent claims have concerned negligence in relation to commercial conveyancing, audit planning and financial mis-selling.

Strengths:

"Paul is a reassuring presence and his advice is always concise and sensible."

Tom Shepherd (see p.927) Tom Shepherd is an impressive barrister who has acted in substantial professional negligence claims brought against solicitors, auditors, tax advisers and others. His recent work has focused on claims arising from insolvency matters, and failed tax avoidance schemes.

Strengths:

"He's an excellent barrister. Very tenacious in mediation. He will relentlessly fight every point."

Band 2

Brick Court Chambers

THE SET

Brick Court Chambers is a leading commercial set noted for appearing in high-value professional negligence claims relating to accountancy and audit. The set maintains a strong client base which includes representing the four leading accountancy firms as well as other high-profile financial services entities. The barristers possess notable experience in major investigations and litigation involving the FRC. Members had continued to be heavily involved in the Ingenious litigation prior to its settlement, whilst Tom Adam KC successfully defended Andrew Thornhill KC in another widely reported tax avoidance scheme claim.

Client service:

"The clerks are very responsive, polite and accessible."

"Exemplary – I cannot praise them enough."

Paul Dennison and Tony Burgess lead the clerking team.

SILKS

Tom Adam KC Tom Adam KC typically advises on professional negligence matters relating to solicitors or barristers, insurance brokers and accountancy firms. He is known for the breadth of his commercial practice and wins praise for his ability to handle

highly complicated cases.

Strengths:

"He's a joy to work with: he's phenomenally clever, very robust, and always takes a view on the merits of the case."

Mark Howard KC Mark Howard KC is best known for his extensive experience in banking and civil fraud cases. He also takes on considerable work in the professional negligence sphere, particularly in relation to financial services. He draws on notable experience of appearing before the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal.

Strengths:

"A heavy-hitting commercial silk."

Tim Lord KC Tim Lord KC takes on a highly varied stream of work in the professional negligence ambit, although he is particularly valued for his work in claims relating to financial and banking professionals. His cross-examination skills elicit admiration from instructing solicitors.

Strengths:

"A powerful strategist with clear investment in matters on which he works."

Simon Salzedo KC Simon Salzedo KC centres his professional negligence practice on cases relating to accountancy as well as other financial services, having previously qualified as a chartered accountant. He is also known for his strength in handling high-value insurance disputes, as well as his robust practice in banking and fraud matters. He fields additional expertise in issues relating to conflicts of interest.

Strengths:

"He sees round all the corners that mere mortals don't."

"In my view he's brilliant at anything he touches, and incredibly good at anything to do with accounts and maths."

Thomas Plewman SC KC Thomas Plewman SC KC is an active silk at the London Bar who also has many years' experience practising as senior counsel in South Africa. He is most often appointed to act in cases of accountants', auditors' and solicitors' negligence.

Strengths:

"He was technically very good and got up to speed quickly with a difficult claim."

Tony Singla KC Tony Singla KC has a broad commercial practice which includes frequently acting in high-value professional negligence claims. He is also the co-author of a leading text on professional negligence claims brought against accountants.

Strengths:

"Tony is extremely responsive, pragmatic and clever. He is very user-friendly and client-focused and has a good grasp of the details at the heart of a case."

"Very accomplished, very calm and has a great manner with clients."

Charles Hollander KC Charles Hollander KC is an experienced silk who is admitted to practice at both the Hong Kong and UK Bars. As part of his wide-ranging commercial practice, he frequently takes on professional negligence cases involving solicitors and accountants. He has specialist expertise in issues surrounding professional privilege and conflicts of interest.

Strengths:

"He is very experienced – he has seen everything. Judges will listen to him because of this and he has got a very good client manner and inspires confidence."

JUNIORS

Edward Harrison Edward Harrison's professional negligence practice has taken in major audit negligence claims, in which he has represented PwC, Grant Thornton and other leading accountancy firms. He has also represented a senior auditor in the FRC proceedings concerning the collapse of Carillion.

Strengths:

"Very capable and confident: a rising star of the junior Bar."

Sophie Shaw Sophie Shaw is known for her work in very high-profile professional negligence cases, such as *Manchester Building Society v Grant Thornton* and the *Ingenious* litigation.

Strengths: "A very bright barrister with massive potential. She is very commercial and really understands the support you need from junior barristers."

Fountain Court Chambers**THE SET**

Fountain Court Chambers offers heavyweight expertise in the representation of both defendants and claimants in claims against professionals in the legal, banking and financial services sectors. The barristers have notable experience in dealing with tax-related disputes, including the *Ingenious* litigation and *Maclean v Thornhill* KC. Fountain Court leads the field when it comes to any litigation involving banking mis-selling. Professional negligence claims surrounding high-stakes business insolvencies are an additional area of strength. Members are also highlighted for their proficient handling of cross-border matters, with recent highlights including the successful defence of a claim against *Walkers LLP* arising from the *Brazilian Banco Rural* affair. Sources praise the set for being "very sensitive to the commercial aspects of a case."

Client service:

"The clerks go above and beyond to help with all queries whether big or small."

"The clerks are excellent: this is the best-clerked set I use, by some margin."

"The clerks at Fountain Court are very good – responsive, helpful and well organised."

Alex Taylor is the senior clerk.

SILKS

Anneliese Day KC (see p.824) Anneliese Day KC has a strong reputation for her courtroom advocacy and commercial savvy, and is very often called upon to handle high-value professional negligence and insurance disputes. She is regularly instructed in complex multiparty litigation arising from major construction projects, but is also an excellent resource on negligence claims involving accountants, lawyers or tax advisers. Her cases often originate in overseas jurisdictions.

Strengths:

"Anneliese is always charming, and applies a thorough approach to her cases. She invariably carries the confidence of the client."

"Very thorough and has a stellar practice."

Mark Simpson KC (see p.929) Mark Simpson KC is highly regarded for the forcefulness of his advocacy and for his deep familiarity with professional negligence claims in the financial and legal sectors. In addition to taking on high-profile litigated claims, he also regularly counsels businesses and firms on regulatory concerns and investigations. He receives instructions from both claimant and defendant clients.

Strengths:

"He's a heavyweight of the Professional Negligence Bar."

Derrick Dale KC Derrick Dale KC typically takes on cases involving claims against financial service providers, solicitors and barristers, and has provided counsel to City and mid-market law firms, as well as insurers. He appears in both individual and group actions, and augments his professional negligence practice with a strong reputation in banking and general commercial work.

Strengths:

"An excellent barrister; very much someone who has the ear of the court."

Timothy Dutton CBE KC (see p.830) Timothy Dutton CBE KC can claim a high level of expertise in the regulated professions, which sees him instructed in highly complex negligence claims involving lawyers, accountants and others. He is frequently instructed to act in the defence of prominent law firms, and his work in this field has seen him appear in the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

Strengths:

"He gives pragmatic and clear oral advice and turns things around quickly."

Timothy Howe KC Timothy Howe KC's considerable experience at the Bar includes recurrent involvement in complex, high-profile professional negligence cases. He is especially adept at handling claims arising out of the financial crisis, and has acted for banks and financial institutions around the world.

Strengths:

"He is extremely hands on and all over the details of a case. He will know all the ins and outs."

Leigh-Ann Mulcahy KC (see p.898) Leigh-Ann Mulcahy KC is frequently instructed in high-value professional liability matters concerning accountants, lawyers and insurance brokers. She has broad advocacy experience, including appellate work, and is also known for her expertise in alternative dispute resolution. A Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society, she is well suited to matters which are heavy on technical evidence.

Strengths:

"Leigh-Ann is a brilliant advocate and very thorough in her approach to matters. She is calm under fire and deals with clients in a robust but diplomatic manner."

"Her advocacy is sharp and intelligent, and she really gets the balance right given the emotion of the case."

James Cutress KC James Cutress KC brings his expertise in insurance and financial services to bear on professional negligence cases, being renowned for claims involving banks and financial advisers in addition to highly topical issues in the construction industry.

Strengths:

"James Cutress KC is a joy to work with, and is in tune with the client's commercial needs."

Ben Lynch KC Ben Lynch KC is a highly regarded silk who is regularly instructed in high-exposure and high-value claims of professional negligence brought against solicitors, barristers and others. He acts in litigation and alternative dispute resolution proceedings, and is well known for his outstanding expertise in insurance matters.

Strengths:

"Ben Lynch KC is technically very capable. He has a really strong work ethic, leads a team very well and has great client care skills."

"Ben Lynch KC is a highly skilled barrister who is technically brilliant. He's also strategically commercial and clients love him."

Tamara Oppenheimer KC (see p.905) Tamara

Oppenheimer KC regularly takes on high-value professional negligence cases arising in the financial sector, including recent work advising banks on claims of financial mis-selling.

Strengths:

"I found her to be outstanding; she was really proactive and commercial about things."

"Tamara Oppenheimer KC was extremely approachable, and dealt with the issues in an efficient and user-friendly manner."

JUNIORS

Nik Yeo (see p.958) Nik Yeo is an esteemed commercial barrister who has a strong practice in financial sector professional negligence matters, often providing counsel in cases with high exposure. His recent work has included a number of large-scale claims against valuers, banks and liquidators.

Strengths:

"Clear and persuasive advocacy and a strategic approach."

Natasha Bennett (see p.796) Natasha Bennett has strong experience in both financial services and legal matters within professional negligence. Her recent work includes a large film finance claim against a tax silk and a case concerning the management of a Welsh government regeneration fund.

Strengths:

"Really switched on and clever. She picks up points others don't necessarily spot."

Christopher Knowles (see p.874) Christopher Knowles is an experienced barrister with a busy practice in solicitors' and barristers' negligence claims. He also handles claims brought against accountants.

Strengths:

"A very good junior; he is very hard-working and he thinks of everything."

Nico Leslie Nico Leslie is a strong choice for professional negligence claims in the Caymans and other offshore jurisdictions. He represents claimants and defendants in complex cases, including one concerning client confidentiality in the criminal trial of the Brazilian banker *Kátia Rabello*.

Strengths:

"An up-and-coming barrister and a very good commercial professional negligence junior."

Hailsham Chambers**THE SET**

Hailsham Chambers is a highly respected set with a huge depth of expertise in solicitors' liability claims. Tenants have experience representing both claimants and respondents in relation to issues including advice on investment and other transactions, and the management of litigation. The set also has strength in claims involving financial services professionals including auditors and financial advisers. Hailsham barristers have acted in high-profile trials and appeals which have influenced the law on limitation and the illegality defence. They also appeared in *Hart v Large*, an important case on liability for chartered surveyors. Clients say: "Hailsham is undoubtedly one of the top sets for professional negligence law."

Client service:

"The clerks are very good, very efficient and very fair."

"The clerks are quietly efficient. They find the right person for the job without any fuss."

"I have known Stephen Smith and Michael Kilbey for at least 35 years. Their service (together with the rest of the clerking team) is second to none."

"Stephen Smith is incredibly good and goes out of his

way to help in all kinds of different ways.”

“Stuart Paley is always extremely efficient, easy to deal with and responsive.”

Stephen Smith is the senior clerk.

SILKS

Michael Pooles KC Michael Pooles KC is renowned for his skill in handling indemnity claims and related coverage matters. He acts for a comprehensive range of clients but focuses in particular on claims concerning surveyors, accountants and lawyers. He has contributed over the years to literature on the subject of professional liability.

Strengths:

“Michael Pooles KC is simply excellent, there is no other word for it. His advice is spot on and reliable.”

“He has the ear of the court. He’s a lovely man to deal with and his juniors love working with him. He has a fabulous capacity to lead the team.”

Nicholas Davidson KC Nicholas Davidson KC offers vast experience in the professional negligence sphere. He regularly takes on high-profile negligence cases arising from complicated issues such as corporate governance breakdown, institutional fraud and downturns in the property market. He has a particular flair for claims involving financial services professionals. He also serves as a deputy High Court judge.

Strengths:

“Technically excellent and knows professional negligence back to front.”

William Flenley KC Well versed in the full spectrum of professional liability work, William Flenley KC serves as an arbitrator and a mediator, as well as an advocate. He specialises particularly in solicitors’ negligence, on which subject he has co-authored a leading reference text.

Strengths:

“William is unrivalled in his attention to detail; there is absolutely no way that William would ever take a matter to trial that he does not know inside out and backwards. You just know that everything will be done right.”

Nicola Rushton KC Nicola Rushton KC has an established professional negligence practice which has recently been focused on claims against solicitors and accountants. Her work in the field arises from a variety of matters including fraud, insolvency and trusts.

Strengths:

“She has a brilliant knack of explaining complex issues to the judiciary so that they trust her advocacy completely.”

Jamie Carpenter KC (see p.808) Jamie Carpenter KC largely concentrates on representing defendants in professional negligence cases, though he also has a growing reputation for claimant work. Best known for his representation in claims against solicitors, his practice has expanded to include litigation involving insurance brokers and financial services professionals. He can also provide the benefit of his strong practice in costs litigation.

Strengths:

“He’s lovely, very bright, encyclopaedically knowledgeable in his area, very practical and nice to deal with.”

“Jamie is absolutely superb. He is refreshingly confident in his views when advising and can quickly grasp complex legal issues as well as grappling with difficult factual arguments.”

Simon Howarth KC Simon Howarth KC has an extensive practice in claims of solicitors’ and barristers’ negligence, but is also able to advise on claims regarding insurance brokerage disputes. He is also regularly instructed in complex, high-value claims arising in the financial services sector.

Strengths:
“Simon is technically brilliant and has the most incredible wealth of knowledge and expertise.”
“Down to earth but superb on paper and on his feet.”

JUNIORS

Francis Bacon Francis Bacon centres his practice on professional negligence cases and insurance coverage disputes, particularly those with an element of fraud. He often takes on high-value solicitors’ negligence claims with significant international aspects, and routinely acts unled.

Strengths:

“Francis is very robust and has a good way with difficult clients.”

“Loves to get his hands dirty on the detail and underlying commercial dynamic.”

Derek Holwill Derek Holwill is a highly experienced barrister who is sought after to counsel claimants and defendants, most commonly in the financial and legal sectors. He also advises in relation to professional indemnity coverage. He has particular expertise in limitation issues.

Strengths:

“He’s very precise and thinks about what he wants to say very carefully.”

“Derek is extremely thorough, clever and commercially aware. I would never pass up an opportunity to work with him.”

Simon Wilton Simon Wilton is head of the professional negligence group at Hailsham and an impressive practitioner in the field who has written extensively on the subject. He is most often instructed by professionals and indemnity insurers in the real estate and financial sectors, where he takes on high-profile, multiparty cases.

Strengths:

“He’s absolutely excellent and a leading junior in various practice areas. He was so eloquent and very good at explaining a very difficult topic.”

Imran Benson Imran Benson acts in a diverse set of claims against surveyors, valuers, accountants and auditors, among other professionals. He is also notable for his work in relation to solicitors’ negligence arising out of corporate and partnership transactions.

Strengths:

“Sound, cool and calm. Very astute.”

Dan Stacey Dan Stacey frequently provides counsel to clients facing major High Court and Court of Appeal proceedings. His work includes acting for and against accountants, surveyors and solicitors, and he has a particular flair for cases involving issues of limitation, with notable expertise in the illegality defence. He has a deep knowledge of lenders’ claims.

Strengths:

“Good balanced judgement and a calm and collected advocate. One of my go-to counsels.”

“Dan is an excellent senior junior. He is measured, knowledgeable and a skilled advocate.”

Henry Bankes-Jones Henry Bankes-Jones acts for individuals and insurers, being particularly noted for his work in solicitor and barrister negligence claims, but also acting in matters concerning accountants and other professionals. He has appeared unled, and at all levels up to the Supreme Court in cases considering novel legal questions.

Strengths:

“Henry is a rising star. He is very robust and is always able to garner the best case possible with the available facts.”

Matthew Jackson Matthew Jackson is a senior barrister with a strong track record in defending a range of professionals, including accountants, valuers and solicitors, as well as professional indemnity insurers. He often takes on high-value claims against law firms arising from prior personal injury or clinical negligence litigation, and a number of his cases have arisen from the vibration white finger litigation. He acts in both individual and group actions.

Strengths:

“Able to deal with very long, confusing litigant-in-person pleadings in a straightforward and commercial way.”

Joshua Munro A barrister who has many years’ experience in the field of professional negligence, Joshua Munro is typically involved in claims against surveyors, lawyers and independent financial advisers. He complements his practice with experience in insurance and costs work.

Strengths:

“Commercial, client-friendly and a brilliant advocate.”

“Josh gives clear and competent advice and is very reliable.”

Niamh O’Reilly Niamh O’Reilly receives superb reviews from her clients, denoting her as a barrister with experience and authority beyond her years. She is particularly noted for her work on lawyers’ negligence, but offers expertise across a broad range of disciplines including accountancy and other professions.

Strengths:

“Niamh is a delight to work with. She combines her sharp intellect with a lovely manner, putting even the most nervous clients at ease.”

“Niamh is the first name on the list of recommendations whenever clients or colleagues need a barrister for the most complex or ‘nasty’ cases.”

“Niamh has a wealth of experience and knowledge, and always impresses me.”

Alicia Tew Alicia Tew is a commercially minded barrister who frequently acts in professional negligence cases, whether on the claimant or defendant side. She has experience of claims arising in a broad range of contexts, including insolvency, investment schemes or the conduct of litigation.

Strengths:

“Alicia has gravitas beyond her years. She is truly excellent.”

“Alicia is a rising star. She is very approachable and at ease with lay clients.”

Jack Steer Jack Steer is building a strong reputation as a professional negligence specialist barrister, typically acting for defendants across a variety of professions but particularly in the legal and financial services sectors.

Strengths:

“Jack is a future star; his advice is always clear, and he has a maturity beyond his years.”

“Jack is one of my absolute go-to barristers; he has the perfect blend of expertise, bedside manner and pragmatism.”

4 Pump Court

THE SET

4 Pump Court houses highly skilled barristers with notable experience in litigation concerning professionals in the legal, insurance and financial sectors, in addition to its superb expertise in the construction

and engineering industries. As with other areas of the set's practice, work with international elements is a particular strength. In a recent highlight, Nigel Tozzi KC achieved success in a pair of claims brought against Withers LLP concerning failures in carrying out and reporting searches for the purchase of prime property in London.

Client service:

"Excellent, responsive, all-round friendly service."

"I've known clerks such as Bill Griffiths and Stewart Gibbs for a long time, and they give me a really good service. They're really helpful and I can pick up the phone to them at any time to gauge availability. They can give us a steer on alternative barristers if need be."

"Their clerking is very good, responsive and engaging. They're very efficient and they provide good service."

The clerking is led by Carl Wall and Stewart Gibbs.

SILKS

Nigel Tozzi KC Nigel Tozzi KC is a versatile commercial silk who handles a diverse range of professional negligence cases. He regularly acts for major insurers and clients in the financial sector, and has expertise in shipping-related disputes. His cases involve a variety of professionals including accountants, solicitors, surveyors and fund managers.

Strengths:

"He's a top-quality advocate, particularly in professional indemnity matters. Extremely user-friendly."

Aidan Christie KC Aidan Christie KC primarily handles negligence claims relating to the financial and insurance sectors, although he is capable of tackling cases concerning almost every non-medical profession. He regularly acts in high-profile cases, where he represents or opposes professionals including brokers, underwriters, financial advisers, auditors and hedge fund directors.

Strengths:

"His oral and written advice is clear, commercial and easy to digest, even when the issues are complex."

Michael Douglas KC Michael Douglas KC handles a broad spread of professional negligence matters and has a particular focus on representing construction professionals. He also takes on cases that involve lawyers, valuers and insurance brokers, and is involved in a growing amount of work with international aspects.

Strengths:

"Clearly massively intelligent and has sharp insight in the insurance field."

Benjamin Pilling KC Benjamin Pilling KC advises architects, engineers and surveyors defending professional negligence claims. He is also highly adept at handling claims relating to legal, financial and property services, acting for both claimants and defendants.

Strengths:

"An excellent advocate, willing to roll up his sleeves on challenging cases."

Fiona Sinclair KC Fiona Sinclair KC is particularly strong on claims relating to tax and investment advice delivered by solicitors and accountants, as well as professionals in the property and construction spheres. She regularly handles litigation of substantial value and complexity, often involving a large number of parties.

Strengths:

"Excellent on technical issues and a team player."

JUNIORS

Kate Livesey Kate Livesey is a highly regarded barrister who handles a wide array of professional negligence claims, including those brought against insurance brokers, solicitors and many others. A significant amount of her work also comes from the construction sector. She acts in both litigation and arbitration proceedings.

Strengths:

"Exceptional and my go-to senior junior. When I work with Kate I am completely confident that I am getting the best advice and the highest standard of pleading."

Simon Hale Simon Hale is a thoroughly respected barrister with a wide-ranging professional negligence practice. His cases relate to various sectors including financial services, and matters involving family law.

Strengths:

"He was extremely impressive, both on paper and on his feet. He's very knowledgeable."

"He handled a very high-pressure, complex hearing and his advocacy was absolutely word-perfect."

Wilberforce Chambers

THE SET

Wilberforce Chambers can bring to bear deep expertise in a wide range of professional negligence claims, acting for both defendants and claimants. The set is frequently sought out for solicitors' liability claims and matters involving financial services professionals, often complicated by fraud elements.

Property-related work is a strong suit, and the barristers are an obvious choice for negligence claims concerning the more complex of conveyancing matters, or major development projects. Members continue to act in matters of considerable size and importance, notably Aurium Real Estate London Ultra Prime v Mishcon de Reya, in which Ian Croxford KC represented the successful respondent.

Client service:

"Wilberforce has top-drawer clerks who go the extra mile across the board."

"Danny Smillie is always very responsive."

"The clerks are very responsive and helpful and it always a pleasure to work with them."

Nicholas Luckman leads the team.

SILKS

Ian Croxford KC Ian Croxford KC is an impressive advocate who boasts an extensive track record of dealing with large-scale professional liability cases. He takes on claims involving a wide range of professionals, including civil engineers, stockbrokers, solicitors and management consultants, among others.

Strengths:

"A warhorse with real presence in the court."

John Wardell KC John Wardell KC maintains a strong commercial practice with a steady emphasis on professional negligence matters, in which he acts for claimants and defendants. He regularly takes on cases relating to legal, financial and property services, and also defends other barristers against claims of negligence. His professional negligence practice is supported by his experience of fraud-related work.

Strengths:

"A fantastic KC – great for the high-level strategy."

James Ayliffe KC James Ayliffe KC is an experienced silk who regularly takes on high-value professional negligence claims. Particularly active in cases arising in the property and legal sectors, he also handles claims relating to accountants, actuaries and

financial advisers, among others.

Strengths:

"James is technically excellent and fantastic on his feet."

Thomas Grant KC Thomas Grant KC acts mainly in financial and legal sector negligence claims, with broad experience in the senior courts. He has contributed to several leading texts on the subject of professional negligence.

Strengths:

"He's highly intelligent and he can see points that others can't."

"An impassioned silk in court. He is also a delightful person and his academic work is incredibly impressive."

Paul Newman KC Paul Newman KC has a wealth of experience handling professional negligence claims relating to pension schemes and other financial services. He has particular expertise in cases arising out of failure to equalise the retirement ages of pension schemes.

Strengths:

"Paul has provided excellent advice and always very promptly."

Jonathan Seitler KC Jonathan Seitler KC commands an impressive professional negligence practice in the property sector, often advising on claims relating to very high-value transactions. He regularly advises on cases brought as the result of allegedly faulty advice given by solicitors and valuers.

Strengths:

"Very calm, intelligent, thorough and friendly."

Clare Stanley KC Clare Stanley KC represents a broad range of professionals in high-value negligence claims, including legal, financial, accountancy and insolvency practitioners. She is often involved in cases featuring highly complex and technical elements, especially in relation to trust law and fraud. She is regularly instructed to act on behalf of high-profile law firms and additionally represents claimants against lawyers.

Strengths:

"Clare is a pleasure to deal with and is very popular with clients. She is brilliant on her feet and has a calm, no-nonsense approach."

Tiffany Scott KC Tiffany Scott KC is well regarded for her professional negligence-focused practice. She has experience of the full breadth of the field, having acted for both claimants and defendants, in cases involving solicitors, barristers, finance professionals and insurance brokers.

Strengths:

"She was very clear and highly engaged and her clients were very happy."

JUNIORS

Benjamin Faulkner Benjamin Faulkner has notable experience in professional negligence claims concerning the sale of property and pensions advice, among other matters.

Strengths:

"He is energetic, responsive, thoughtful, organised and very good to work with."

Band 3

Crown Office Chambers

THE SET

Crown Office Chambers has notable areas of focus within the professional negligence field, including claims against solicitors and those involving finan-

cial, insurance and construction professionals. The barristers have recently participated in prominent cases such as the Ingenious litigation. Other notable cases have contributed to the case law on solicitors' duties to litigation funders, and the measure of loss when a building surveyor misses a defect. Clients praise them for having "an excellent breadth of knowledge of all areas of professional indemnity work."

Client service:

"The clerks provide very quick responses with sufficient information, and they are always happy to talk anything through."

"They are very responsive and will bend over backwards to accommodate the client's needs."

"Steve Purse in particular is responsive and commercially minded."

"We mainly deal with Steve Purse and he is excellent. We trust his judgement, and his team are very good at organising counsels' diaries with us."

Steve Purse is the key contact for professional liability work.

SILKS

Ben Quiney KC (see p.913) Ben Quiney KC acts in claims against a wide range of professionals, including accountants, tax advisers and solicitors. His experience extends to claims of negligence in the construction industry.

Strengths:

"Clever, organised, smooth and on top of the detail. He is charming, caring, reasonable and hard-working."

Daniel Shapiro KC Daniel Shapiro KC handles a broad spectrum of professional negligence cases that concern the actions and advice of lawyers, surveyors and insurance brokers, among others. He is able to act for both claimants and defendants, and has experience in the Supreme Court and other appellate courts. He also demonstrates proficiency in large group actions.

Strengths:

"Somebody who has mountains of experience and knows the subject area inside and out. He was very responsive and on point and was prepared to be part of the team."

"He's very bright and he gives strong advice."

JUNIORS

Ivor Collett Ivor Collett is a well-regarded barrister who regularly handles negligence claims relating to professionals in the construction and legal sectors. Additionally, he has considerable insurance expertise and regularly acts for insurers, as well as defendants in professional indemnity litigation. He also sits as an adjudicator.

Strengths:

"He's incredibly courteous and liked by judges, and he's an absolute team player. He listens to what I have to say and I never feel directed. We can have debates that I enjoy. He's my go-to barrister."

"Ivor is knowledgeable and very approachable."

Jason Evans-Tovey Jason Evans-Tovey regularly advises on matters arising from insurance disputes, including both property damage and professional negligence claims. He is frequently instructed in cases concerning a range of professionals, including valuers, solicitors, financial advisers and planning consultants. He benefits from a strong scientific background in his handling of technical matters.

Strengths:

"Jason is an excellent advocate. I want him involved

on any claim I deal with as early as possible. He knows where it is going and how best to get there."

Elizabeth Boon Elizabeth Boon is particularly noted for her expertise in insurance broker negligence, and is in demand for cases arising from underlying construction claims.

Strengths:

"Really approachable, really technically great. Good at explaining things to clients and getting the information that she needs."

James Sharpe In professional negligence matters James Sharpe has notable experience acting in cases involving solicitors, independent financial advisers and insurance brokers. He is also able to advise on closely related issues such as fraud and breach of fiduciary duty.

Strengths:

"He is a really nice individual to deal with. He is user-friendly and I trust his advice."

7 King's Bench Walk

THE SET

7 King's Bench Walk is sought out for its barristers' deep expertise in liability claims concerning financial services professionals, including the leading accountancy firms. The barristers are also highly experienced in solicitors' negligence claims and various disputes involving insurance brokers. Rebecca Sabben-Clare KC appeared as lead counsel for the successful appellant in the landmark Supreme Court case of Manchester Building Society v Grant Thornton. More recently, the barristers have acted in various aspects of the litigation surrounding KPMG's role in the collapse of Carillion.

Client service:

"They respond immediately to everything and always go the extra mile - very impressive."

"Responsive and clear at all times."

"Gary Rose in particular is exceptional. I always feel like the clerks are part of the team; they're really accommodating for clients and really brilliant."

Greg Leyden is the senior clerk.

SILKS

Jonathan Gaisman KC Jonathan Gaisman KC displays particular strength in handling professional negligence claims in the financial sector, most often those of especially high worth or exposure. He has handled a number of very substantial auditors' negligence claims and is also known for his extremely strong insurance practice.

Strengths:

"Magisterial; hugely respected for his tough advocacy."

Rebecca Sabben-Clare KC Rebecca Sabben-Clare KC is a well-respected silk who has developed an established presence in the professional negligence field alongside her broad commercial practice. She has developed a particularly strong practice acting in audit negligence claims.

Strengths:

"She is very thorough and very focused. Excellent at cross-examination."

"She's absolutely first rate; she's very bright and she's very on top of the law and the latest developments in this area."

"A brilliant advocate, very dedicated to our work and provides quality advice throughout."

James Brocklebank KC James Brocklebank KC is noted for his professional negligence and insurance expertise, and regularly handles major claims relating to insurance brokers, financial advisers and

accountants. He is experienced in cases with an international element.

Strengths:

"James is an excellent advocate in a complex case. He is fully in command of the detail, with an incisive intellect."

JUNIORS

Michael Ryan Michael Ryan is valued for his advice on high-profile negligence issues across a comprehensive array of professions including solicitors and auditors. He focuses on claims with an element of fraud and those arising out of commercial transactions. He has appeared at all levels of the court system in complex and high-value litigation, including before the Supreme Court.

Strengths:

"Responsive, clever and a good team player."

"Got up to speed with the details of the case very quickly and provided excellent support and written work."

James Goudkamp James Goudkamp has excelled in high-profile instructions involving negligence claims brought against construction professionals and insurance brokers. He also has notable experience running claims brought by professional sportspeople. He is Professor of the Law of Obligations at Oxford and a substantial contributor to the body of legal writing, and is an authority on illegality.

Strengths:

"James is brilliant; he is incredibly knowledgeable and also incredibly thorough."

"Fabulous in all aspects of professional negligence law."

Harry Wright Harry Wright is an intellectual and creative barrister who has appeared in a number of highly significant cases in the professional negligence field. He has strong experience in claims relating to auditors.

Strengths:

"A pleasure to work with. Very impressive in terms of cross-examination."

"A very solid and hard-working all-rounder. His written product is excellent. He is very assured and experienced beyond his years."

3 Verulam Buildings

THE SET

3 Verulam Buildings houses counsel who are experienced in a range of professional negligence disputes. Its barristers offer deep expertise when handling insurance-related claims as well as those alleging negligence on the part of solicitors. They have additional skill in claims arising out of negligent tax and investment fund advice. Recent work highlights include Farol Holdings v Clydesdale Bank, a claim alleging the bank misled customers regarding their liability for swap breakage costs when terminating or restructuring loans early. The barristers are praised by clients for being "very knowledgeable, accommodating and a pleasure to deal with."

Client service:

"3VB's clerks are some of the best and are very accessible. If we have a problem, they will listen and will address it to our satisfaction."

"Richard Ansell in particular is very helpful and commercially minded."

The set has adopted a cloud-based system to improve data security. Stephen Penson and Stuart Pullum are joint senior practice managers at the set.

SILKS

Tom Weitzman KC Tom Weitzman KC is a formidable barrister who has an equally strong reputation for his professional negligence and insurance expertise. As well as regularly representing professional indemnity insurers and brokers, he also works with a wide array of other professionals, including architects, engineers, solicitors, accountants and actuaries.

Strengths:

"Tom knows the law and is persuasive; he has a light touch and judges like him."

Andrew Onslow KC Andrew Onslow KC has a strong financial services and fraud practice which sits alongside his professional negligence work. As well as financial professionals, he handles cases involving solicitors' negligence, and has niche expertise in representing auction houses in high-profile disputes surrounding valuable works of art.

Strengths:

"He's very practical and he has a good understanding of the art world and how it works, which is valuable knowledge to have. He has been involved in some very high-profile cases, but is always available."

JUNIORS

Peter Ratcliffe Peter Ratcliffe has considerable experience handling high-value claims relating to insurance brokers' negligence. His work in this area also regularly encompasses claims made against financial advisers and investment managers.

Strengths:

"Peter is very easy to work with and his written work is excellent."

Band 4

Gatehouse Chambers

THE SET

Gatehouse Chambers is noted for its skilled representation of claimants and defendants in a range of professional negligence disputes. Members are highlighted for their expertise in matters pertaining to legal, financial and construction professionals. They have been active in cases involving Big Four accounting firms and nationwide solicitors' firms. Particular work highlights in this area have arisen from major corporate insolvencies or international investments. The barristers are praised by clients for being able to "get to the key issues quickly."

Client service:

"The clerks have always responded quickly and efficiently."

"Fast response times; they are very good at referring to appropriate counsel."

"The clerks, and Adam Blades in particular, are very knowledgeable about practice areas and very approachable."

The senior practice manager specialising in professional negligence is Patrick Sarson.

SILKS

John de Waal KC John de Waal KC handles a broad range of professional negligence cases, most often on behalf of defendants, and is particularly well versed in claims concerning solicitors, architects and property developers. He also serves as a mediator.

Strengths:

"I wouldn't hesitate to instruct him on any professional negligence matter."

"He's proactive in his handling of the matter, giving the client clear and understandable advice. He was always available to answer any questions which

arose during the claim."

Nigel Jones KC Nigel Jones KC draws on his extensive experience in commercial litigation and insurance law to bolster his robust professional negligence practice. He is regularly instructed in cases that concern accountants, solicitors and surveyors, among others.

Strengths:

"Nigel is excellent all round."

JUNIORS

James Hall James Hall takes on substantial professional negligence claims relating to surveyors, architects and solicitors. He is able to draw upon his previous experience as an employed barrister in the financial services department of a national law firm.

Strengths:

"He's thorough and practical and his written work is really good."

"Good attention to detail, very good drafting skills and good with clients."

"James is my go-to barrister for professional negligence, as he's a real team player, and an excellent advocate."

Sarah McCann Sarah McCann focuses her practice on defending liquidators and architects from claims of professional negligence, as well as representing solicitors, insurance brokers and others. She is experienced in advocacy before the appellate courts.

Strengths:

"Very pragmatic, and cuts through all the legal issues."

Maitland Chambers

THE SET

Maitland Chambers possesses notable expertise in bringing professional negligence claims against law firms, barristers and financial advisers. Its tenants have well-established knowledge in claims concerning fraudulent investment schemes and high-value real estate transactions.

Client service:

"I have found their clerking very responsive."

John Wiggs leads the clerking team.

Radcliffe Chambers

THE SET

Radcliffe Chambers houses notable expertise in property-related professional negligence claims, pension issues and disputes arising out of the execution of wills and trusts. Other areas of expertise include claims following tax and other financial advice. Instructing solicitors say: "The barristers at Radcliffe are a delight to work with, and are very thorough and detail-focused."

Client service:

"The clerks have been extremely responsive and very helpful."

"Lee Wright and Bradley Edwards are always exceptionally prompt in responding to calls and emails. They go above and beyond to assist with any queries you may have."

Keith Nagle and John Clark are the senior clerks.

SILKS

Jeremy Cousins KC Jeremy Cousins KC has over four decades of experience at the Bar, which includes considerable involvement in major professional negligence cases. He regularly takes on claims relating to solicitors' negligence, although he also handles issues arising from breach of fiduciary duty and other issues.

Keith Rowley KC Keith Rowley KC is a highly respected silk who acts for and against professionals ranging from financial advisers and stockbrokers to actuaries, accountants and barristers. His work encompasses the full extent of professional negligence, although he is particularly well known for his strength in pensions-related cases.

Strengths:

"Keith is user-friendly and responsive. He's very experienced and is a good advocate."

Thomas Dumont KC Thomas Dumont KC is a vastly experienced silk and veteran of the Chancery Bar who is also very active in the field of professional negligence. His main area of focus is in representing accountants and solicitors in negligence claims arising out of tax and estate planning matters. He has appeared numerous times before the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

Strengths:

"Very user-friendly, happy to discuss matters at any time, very charming and easy to deal with."

Serle Court

THE SET

Serle Court is a well-respected set which is noted for its representation of accountants, valuers and solicitors in professional negligence claims. The chambers fields particularly strong expertise in matters relating to property, company ownership or the management of trusts. Its barristers represent both claimants and defendants. Recent work highlights include *Jomast v Muckle*, concerning allegedly negligent drafting by solicitors in a contract to house asylum seekers on behalf of the Home Office.

Client service:

"The clerking team are superb. Always very responsive and helpful."

Steven Whitaker is the head clerk.

SILKS

Philip Jones KC (see p.866) Philip Jones KC is regularly instructed in professional negligence cases relating to a broad range of business professionals, including accountants, lawyers, company administrators and tax advisers. His practice benefits from his comprehensive understanding of commercial chancery law.

Strengths:

"He is good to work with and knows tax law well."

Daniel Lightman KC (see p.880) Daniel Lightman KC offers experience in major professional negligence matters across a broad range of professions, including barristers, solicitors and financial services. He combines this with academic activity, contributing to several reference texts.

Strengths:

"Daniel has encyclopedic knowledge of all and every possible law and case law discussion relating to shareholder and director disputes. His work is never done—he is always thinking. He's very smart and creative."

2 Temple Gardens

THE SET

2 Temple Gardens houses an esteemed group of barristers with notable experience of guiding clients through a range of sensitive professional negligence disputes. Barristers at the set possess deep expertise in matters involving lawyers, accountants, financial advisers and insurance brokers. They have represented Clyde & Co in defence of major claims with alleged links to the IMDB fraud, as well as being

instructed in matters arising from the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

Client service:

“Lee Tyler leads an exceptional team.”

Lee Tyler is the senior clerk.

SILKS

Charles Dougherty KC (see p.828) Charles Dougherty KC is regularly instructed in negligence issues concerning a diverse range of professionals, including financial intermediaries, insurance brokers and other barristers. He is sought out by law firms when solicitors are implicated in claims.

Strengths:

“A powerful and incredibly bright advocate.”

Robert Moxon Browne KC Robert Moxon Browne KC is joint head of the professional negligence group. His area of particular expertise includes negligence and related insurance issues in the education and care sectors, but he is also experienced in the broader realm, acting for and against insurance brokers, barristers and solicitors, among other professionals.

Strengths:

“Very approachable and thorough.”

JUNIORS

Isabel Barter (see p.792) Isabel Barter is an accomplished common law barrister with an emphasis on property damage, product liability and professional negligence. She defends and prosecutes a range of individuals, including accountants, financial advisers and construction professionals. She has previously appeared before the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court. She is a co-editor of the Journal of Professional Liability.

Strengths:

“A real rising star. I would want her involved in any professional negligence case.”

Sonia Nolten (see p.902) Sonia Nolten is an insurance-focused barrister with a substantial professional negligence practice. Aside from her activity in the TCC, she has also built a reputation in claims involving insurance brokers, solicitors and barristers. She often acts unled.

Strengths:

“Very forensic, very sensible and pragmatic.”

Other Ranked Lawyers

Colin Edelman KC (see p.831) (Devereux) Colin Edelman KC is an esteemed silk who is an expert in insurance and reinsurance brokers’ negligence claims. He also takes on extensive work relating to other kinds of professional negligence, including acting for and against lawyers, architects and financial advisers. He receives notable acclaim for his arbitration work, and additionally chairs the Bar Mutual Indemnity Fund.

Strengths:

“Very sensible and has bags of integrity. Really

clever.”

Andrew George KC (Blackstone Chambers) Andrew George KC is a talented commercial silk with a flair for professional negligence work, as well as various other practice areas including civil fraud and media law. He is particularly adept at defending claims involving alleged financial misconduct. He also acts in cases brought against professionals in law and construction.

Strengths:

“Easy to deal with and a team player. He is excellent, particularly as part of a big counsel team.”

Nicholas Hill (Outer Temple Chambers) Within his professional negligence practice, Nicholas Hill specialises in pensions and financial services claims. He has significant experience acting as sole counsel in addition to being led.

Strengths:

“A very thorough, very intelligent and hard-working junior with detailed knowledge of pensions law.”

“Probably one of the brightest barristers I’ve worked with. Effortlessly clever.”

Hugh Jackson (Selborne Chambers) Hugh Jackson is an impressive senior barrister who is instructed in professional negligence cases involving property and chancery elements. He acts for claimants and defendants in complex, multiparty litigation, especially with regard to allegedly negligent advice from solicitors, surveyors and tax and financial advisers.

Strengths:

“Very responsive, thorough and accessible.”

Francesca O’Neill (see p.904) (Deka Chambers) Francesca O’Neill has a well-regarded solicitors’ negligence practice, typically acting for defendants in claims concerning property transactions or litigation.

Strengths:

“Formidable on her feet. Highly experienced and it shows in her gravitas, which goes much further than you would expect given her call.”

Alexander Polley KC (see p.910) (One Essex Court) Alexander Polley KC is a highly capable new silk who is regularly involved in complex, multiparty litigation, often with an international aspect. His professional negligence practice has a particular focus on handling claims against solicitors and auditors.

Strengths:

“A polished court performer.”

“Very clever and very impressive.”

Katie Powell (see p.912) (Atkin Chambers) Katie Powell is highly adept at handling claims brought against lawyers for allegedly mishandled litigation and other matters. She is also regularly instructed in cases concerning independent financial advisers, construction professionals and valuers.

Strengths:

“A really super bright advocate. Totally committed. I think she is excellent.”

“I was really impressed with how forceful she was – she seems quite fearless.”

Andrew Short KC (Outer Temple Chambers) Andrew Short KC has significant experience in professional

negligence cases, typically relating to the management of pension schemes. He represents both solicitor defendants and corporate claimants.

Strengths:

“Andrew has provided very helpful advice in a complex case.”

Andrew Spink KC (Outer Temple Chambers) Andrew Spink KC is a leading pensions barrister with a busy practice in associated professional negligence claims. He has acted for the trustees of various large pension funds in claims against lawyers and administrators, as well as defending such claims.

Strengths:

“He is clearly a very bright, intellectual and sharp thinker, but he is also very good to work with and a team player.”

Nicolas Stallworthy KC (Outer Temple Chambers) Nicolas Stallworthy KC is known for his work in complex professional negligence claims, specialising in cases involving solicitors, insurance companies and investment advisers in connection with pension scheme disputes.

Strengths:

“Incredibly bright; he really tries to find solutions for clients.”

Nicholas Trompeter KC (Selborne Chambers) Nicholas Trompeter KC has strong expertise in landlord and tenant work and real estate more generally which gives him an excellent grounding in professional negligence disputes in the property sector. His clients include landlords, investors and the Chief Land Registrar.

Strengths:

“To say that he is incredible is an understatement. Nicholas has an eye for detail and a memory like an elephant. His academic ability is second to none, his manner with the clients is just incredible, and he is so user-friendly.”

“Nick is magisterial. He has it all – a fiercely talented advocate, with a total grasp of the law and the case detail. He is incredibly responsive and good with clients.”

David Yates KC (Pump Court Tax Chambers) David Yates KC has a recognised specialism in tax and finance-focused professional negligence claims, which is greatly enhanced by his former career as a financial analyst. He has advised on a wide range of financial claims relating to film finance schemes and offshore trusts, as well as faulty tax, accounting and legal advice. He is often sought out by defendant insurers.

Strengths:

“Great to work with. He quickly got on top of a complex tax-related instruction and made his advice accessible and client-friendly.”

“Incredibly incisive; his handling of really complex tax issues just seems effortless.”

“He translates the seemingly impenetrable into something clear, comprehensible and relevant for clients.”

London Technology & Construction

Professional Negligence Technology & Construction
Leading Sets
Band 1
Atkin Chambers
Keating Chambers
4 Pump Court
Band 2
4 New Square Chambers
Crown Office Chambers
39 Essex Chambers
Band 3
Gatehouse Chambers
Leading Silks
Band 1
Ansell Rachel 4 Pump Court
Barwise Stephanie Atkin Chambers*
Brannigan Sean 4 Pump Court
Catchpole Stuart Atkin Chambers*
Constable Adam Keating Chambers
Day Anneliese Fountain Court Chambers (ORL) ◇*
McMullan Manus Atkin Chambers
Moran Vincent Keating Chambers
Nissen Alexander Keating Chambers
Patten Ben 4 New Square Chambers*
Rigney Andrew Crown Office Chambers
Sinclair Fiona 4 Pump Court
Stewart Roger 4 New Square Chambers*
Streatfeild-James David Atkin Chambers
Band 2
Doerries Chantal-Aimée Atkin Chambers*
Douglas Michael 4 Pump Court
Ghaly Karim 39 Essex Chambers
Hargreaves Simon Keating Chambers
Lofthouse Simon Atkin Chambers*
McCafferty Lynne 4 Pump Court
Mirchandani Siân 4 New Square Chambers*
Moody Neil 2 Temple Gardens (ORL) ◇*
Parkin Fiona Atkin Chambers
Pilling Benjamin 4 Pump Court
Rawley Dominique Atkin Chambers
Robb Adam 39 Essex Chambers
White Andrew Atkin Chambers*
Band 3
Cross James 4 Pump Court
Darling Paul 39 Essex Chambers
Dennison Stephen Atkin Chambers
Garrett Lucy Keating Chambers
Hickey Alexander 4 Pump Court
Howells James Atkin Chambers*
Hussain Riaz Atkin Chambers
Lee Krista Keating Chambers
Nicholson Jeremy 4 Pump Court
Packman Claire 4 Pump Court
Quiney Ben Crown Office Chambers*
Reed Paul Gatehouse Chambers A
Selby Jonathan Keating Chambers
Stephens Jessica 4 Pump Court
Townend Samuel Keating Chambers
Walker Steven Atkin Chambers*
Williamson Adrian Keating Chambers
Winser Crispin Crown Office Chambers
New Silks
Choat Rupert Atkin Chambers
Lamont Calum Keating Chambers
* Indicates individual with profile.
A direct access.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Professional Negligence Technology & Construction
Leading Juniors
Band 1
Henderson Simon 4 Pump Court
Livesey Kate 4 Pump Court
Band 2
Bodnar Alexandra Keating Chambers
Bowling James 4 Pump Court
Collings Nicholas Atkin Chambers*
Coplin Richard Keating Chambers
Hale Simon 4 Pump Court
Owen Tom Keating Chambers
Piercy Catherine Gatehouse Chambers
Pliener David Gatehouse Chambers A
Powell Katie Atkin Chambers*
Wheater Michael Gatehouse Chambers
Wygas Luke 4 Pump Court
Band 3
Asquith Tom 4 New Square Chambers*
Atkins Nicola Crown Office Chambers
Briggs Lucie Atkin Chambers
Chelmick Timothy 4 New Square Chambers*
Collett Ivor Crown Office Chambers
Colter Lucy 4 New Square Chambers*
Crangle Thomas 4 Pump Court
Hanna Rónán Atkin Chambers*
Jones Jennifer Atkin Chambers*
Laney Anna Crown Office Chambers
Lixenberg Marc Atkin Chambers*
Oram Sebastian 3PB Barristers (ORL) ◇
Pimlott Charles Crown Office Chambers
Sheard David Keating Chambers
Slow Camille Atkin Chambers
Up-and-coming individuals
Healiss Emma Keating Chambers

Band 1**Atkin Chambers****THE SET**

Atkin Chambers possesses an outstanding reputation in the construction industry, and barristers at the set have broad experience representing both claimants and defendants in related professional negligence claims. They regularly participate in high-profile and complex disputes involving engineers, architects, consultants, construction managers and other key professionals. The barristers have been instructed in matters relating to a range of construction matters including fire safety issues associated with cladding, such as in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. Other notable work includes the large multiparty dispute between Morrisons and contractors involved in extending its abattoir in Lancashire.

Client service:

"I routinely go to Atkin over other sets because of their service and because they invest in us as a client, which is not something we often see from sets. The clerks team has thrown everything into ensuring that we can still deliver for our clients, and that's incredibly important to us. Their support has enabled that." "The clerking team is excellent. They look after us very well and have a strong sense of client service. Many of the clerks are proactive and actively look to find solutions when needed."

"Particular mention must go to Rob Bryant – he is hugely organised, responsive and a real pleasure to deal with."

"Matt Ashman and senior clerk Justin Wilson are excellent."

SILKS

Stephanie Barwise KC (see p.793) Stephanie Barwise KC is a well-regarded silk who acts in professional negligence claims brought against surveyors, architects, engineers and other professionals. Her practice is international in its scope, with past work spanning the UK, parts of Africa and the Middle East.

Strengths:

"She is head and shoulders above anyone else in the room – incredibly committed, hard-working and focused. Her drafting is sharp and perceptive because she is so on top of the detail."

"She delivers advice clearly and succinctly; she has a no-nonsense style which she manages to combine with a very friendly manner. Clients love her approach and she is extremely easy to deal with and always very responsive and professional."

Stuart Catchpole KC (see p.809) Stuart Catchpole KC has a strong practice in the construction and technology sectors, and is often instructed in large-scale and highly complex professional negligence claims in those industries. As well as being an advocate, he is also a qualified adjudicator, mediator and arbitrator who handles disputes around the world. He is well suited to highly technical claims involving the allegedly defective construction of energy and industrial infrastructure projects.

Strengths:

"He's really an excellent advocate."

Manus McMullan KC Manus McMullan KC advises on a wide array of professional negligence claims in construction and technology contexts, including claims of an international nature. He handles cases relating to architects, surveyors and engineers, as well as software developers, systems analysts and computer programmers. His expertise is sought out by professionals, insurers and claimants.

Strengths:

"He's just superb. I've been watching him cross-examine and he very much takes the lead strategically." "Clients love him; he's outstanding."

David Streatfeild-James KC David Streatfeild-James KC brings to bear over 30 years' experience at the Bar when handling complex and often high-profile negligence claims. He is regularly instructed in claims arising out of significant public infrastructure and energy projects. He is able to serve as an arbitrator or adjudicator, as well as an advocate for claimants and defendants. He has acted before the Appeal and Supreme Courts.

Strengths:

"David was calm, reassuring and insightful."

"He has an excellent manner with clients."

Chantal-Aimée Doerries KC (see p.827) Chantal-Aimée Doerries KC undertakes a considerable amount of professional negligence work, often involving large construction and infrastructure projects. She has recently been instructed in claims against engineers, quantity surveyors and architects, among others. Her capabilities include international arbitration as well as domestic litigation.

Strengths:

"An excellent barrister who produces very sophisticated work and is commercially aware."

Simon Lofthouse KC (see p.881) Simon Lofthouse KC is frequently instructed in complex professional

negligence disputes on behalf of both claimant and defendant parties. He is capable of handling highly technical claims relating to major residential and commercial developments, engineering projects and IT installations. He has experience covering international arbitration as well as TCC litigation and ADR.

Strengths:

"His cross-examination abilities are a master class."
"Simon was very responsive and reverted quickly. He was also very commercial in his approach and we benefited from his extensive expertise in international arbitration."

Fiona Parkin KC Fiona Parkin KC is instructed on behalf of professionals, multinational companies and public bodies in a wide range of professional negligence claims. She regularly advises on matters emerging out of major international infrastructure projects and is skilled in multiparty disputes involving technical questions of liability, including those before the Court of Appeal.

Strengths:

"Fiona is incredibly hard-working, excellent on her feet and has grappled with some very complicated points of law in our case. She is a pleasure to work with."

Dominique Rawley KC Dominique Rawley KC acts in a wide array of high-value engineering and construction matters, including professional negligence cases, often revolving around complicated technical and contractual issues. She regularly appears in the TCC and also handles adjudications and arbitrations both domestically and internationally. Her cases involve allegations against surveyors, architects and engineers.

Strengths:

"Very good at managing a horribly complex case: she brilliantly unravelled a messy set of facts and contracts and led a team of juniors."
"She's an excellent barrister."

Andrew White KC (see p.950) Andrew White KC handles a wide range of domestic and international disputes, including professional negligence claims arising from major oil and gas, shipbuilding, rail and engineering projects. His clients include contractors, public bodies, private employers, manufacturers and other professional advisers in the UK and internationally. He also accepts instructions from indemnity insurers.

Strengths:

"Andrew is a concise thinker who speaks with clarity whether in court or when providing advice."

Stephen Dennison KC Stephen Dennison KC is a seasoned practitioner whose varied practice encompasses construction and engineering, energy and utilities work alongside associated insurance and professional negligence matters. He continues to handle major litigation as well as domestic and international arbitrations. He is an especially strong choice for claims involving the design and construction of energy infrastructure projects. He acts for both claimants and defendants, or their indemnity insurers.

Strengths:

"He knows all there is to know about this kind of work."

James Howells KC (see p.860) James Howells KC offers expertise in both technology and construction law, acting in major claims involving negligence in software design and implementation as well as those against architects and other construction professionals. He has appeared in the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court.

Strengths:

"He's incredibly responsive and razor-sharp – and he really 'gets' the client."

"His service delivery, knowledge and expertise are second to none. He's enormously intelligent, very friendly and dedicated."

Riaz Hussain KC Riaz Hussain KC focuses on litigation and arbitration arising in the construction and engineering sectors. He is regularly instructed in negligence claims pertaining to design and construction defects in major building works, including PFI projects. He acts for insurers and claimants.

Strengths:

"His ability to get his head around technical issues and his commercial awareness are both very good."

"Riaz is great to have on your side – very responsive and very quick on the uptake, showing great intelligence."

Steven Walker KC (see p.946) Steven Walker KC is a respected barrister who advises various construction industry professionals in relation to sensitive disputes, typically concerning design defects or project management.

Strengths:

"Steven is a top-quality KC who delivers a first-rate service and is very intelligent and approachable in equal measure."

"He gives excellent advice, stays calm in very difficult situations and is always reliable."

"Steven is very good with clients and provides clear, commercial advice. He is our go-to when we need KC input."

Rupert Choat KC Rupert Choat KC is an intellectually gifted barrister and former solicitor who has established a construction law specialism, and is a contributor to related journals as well as a lecturer in construction law and dispute resolution. He is recognised for his work in professional negligence claims involving architects and engineers.

Strengths:

"When he is on your team you can be confident that you will have sensible, excellent arguments."

"A skilled advocate who makes sure that the important points are both covered and grasped."

"He has a particular flair for advocacy and is persuasive, well prepared and well spoken. His written work is impeccable and gets right into the detail of the issues."

JUNIORS

Nicholas Collings (see p.815) Nicholas Collings has a busy professional negligence practice encompassing the IT, construction, natural resources and energy sectors. He is instructed in domestic and international disputes on behalf of designers, developers, contractors and other construction professionals, as well as insurers and brokers. He has strong experience of litigation at appellate level.

Strengths:

"His expertise and service delivery are very good and he has a good, self-assured style – very pleasant to deal with."

"Nicholas is experienced and has precision focus on his cases when preparing and delivering advocacy."

Katie Powell (see p.912) Katie Powell often acts unled in matters involving engineers, architects and surveyors. She regularly appears in the TCC and has experience of advocacy before the Court of Appeal.

Strengths:

"She is very responsive and personable, very clever and able to provide advice clearly."

"Very bright and well thought of across the Bar."

Lucie Briggs Lucie Briggs defends architects, engineers and valuers in a wide variety of professional negligence claims, and has notable expertise in fire engineering.

Strengths:

"She has the ability to make complex legal and technical issues readily understandable to the clients. She is a calm, unflappable and persistent advocate."

"She is quick to understand complicated matters whilst being commercially aware of how a contract operates in a given situation."

Rónán Hanna (see p.848) Rónán Hanna has wide-ranging expertise in engineering and construction disputes, and significant experience in professional negligence cases involving engineers, contractors and architects, among others. He is adept at managing claims through the courts, including on appeal, and also regularly undertakes adjudication and arbitration work.

Strengths:

"He has outstanding technical and legal skills which are invaluable. He would consistently be my first choice."

"He's very good on the detail and his client service is also very good."

Jennifer Jones (see p.866) Jennifer Jones excels when acting as sole counsel, representing project managers, quantity surveyors or architects in professional negligence claims. She often handles large multiparty disputes in the TCC and has experience in cross-border litigation.

Strengths:

"Jennifer is fantastic to work with – responsive, available, and capable of turning around high-quality work in complex matters at very short notice."

Marc Lixenberg (see p.881) Marc Lixenberg regularly acts in substantial construction cases involving claims brought against both main contractors and specialist professional teams.

Strengths:

"A highly skilled lawyer, with a strong knowledge of the law."

"Very user-friendly and responsive; he provides clear advice."

Camille Slow Camille Slow is an experienced barrister who specialises in construction and professional negligence, often taking on multiparty claims of significantly high value, including those relating to prime residential property. She is instructed by claimants as well as defendants.

Strengths:

"She's fantastic on her feet; she really gets into the detail and she manages the client extremely effectively."

"Camille is really constructive and great on cross-examination."

"A highly accomplished senior junior who is thorough and meticulous in her approach."

Keating Chambers

THE SET

Keating Chambers' leading reputation in the construction and engineering sector extends to related professional negligence claims. The chambers has notable strength in matters involving project managers, architects and engineers. The set can offer strong expertise in claims stemming from high-value, complex and sensitive construction projects. Barristers from the set have been involved in a number of high-profile cases such as Northumbria Hospitals NHS Trust v Lendlease, and the dispute concerning Morrisons' abattoir project.

Client service:

"The clerks are very attentive and quick to respond. They are market leaders."

"It is a great clerking team and they do their best to find the right counsel for you."

"James Luxmoore is very attentive and very responsive. Nothing's too much trouble and we get a very good service from them."

Will Shruballs and James Luxmoore lead the team. The set has produced a series of webinars which are available online, and offers virtual client catch-ups and client listening.

SILKS

Adam Constable KC Adam Constable KC is particularly adept at handling technical claims relating to large-scale or intricate engineering and construction work, including professional negligence disputes. He acts for and against professionals, including project managers, engineers and architects. His capabilities include alternative dispute resolution, as well as appearing before the TCC.

Strengths:

"Adam is brilliant. He is extremely bright and manages to balance his knowledge of the law with a real commercial awareness."

Vincent Moran KC Vincent Moran KC is well known as an experienced advocate and adviser on a wide range of professional negligence matters connected with the construction industry. He regularly represents and opposes contractors, architects and designers, among other parties. He has experience of adjudication, as well as TCC proceedings, and has also authored a number of publications relating to construction matters.

Strengths:

"An excellent advocate. He would be my go-to if I wanted to stick my mortgage on the case."

Alexander Nissen KC Alexander Nissen KC is a seasoned practitioner mainly representing professionals in the energy, engineering and construction spheres, as well as regularly appearing in legal and property services cases. His professional negligence capabilities include advisory work, litigation, adjudication, arbitration and mediation. He regularly appears in the TCC and the Court of Appeal.

Strengths:

"He provides extremely strong written advice that is clear, well presented and client-accessible."

"An exceptional lawyer with a great insight into the minds of the judiciary."

Simon Hargreaves KC Simon Hargreaves KC has extensive experience of negligence claims against professionals across an array of industries, including the technology, engineering and construction sectors. He is a talented litigator and also handles alternative dispute resolution. His strong track record includes instructions in claims arising out of sizeable infrastructure and energy projects.

Strengths:

"Simon is very capable and knowledgeable; he provides advice in context and works well with clients."

Lucy Garrett KC Lucy Garrett KC practises across the sectors of energy and construction (including shipbuilding), and handles significant professional negligence disputes in these areas. She is often called upon to litigate high-value matters in the TCC, and also gets involved in major international arbitrations. She acts for claimants, defendants and insurers in highly technical professional negligence claims. Her clients include architects and engineers.

Strengths:

"She gives clear, commercial advice, solidly grounded in a careful application of the law."

Krista Lee KC Krista Lee KC is recognised for her construction law expertise and has applied this to building a strong reputation in the related professional negligence sphere. She acts across a broad range of areas ranging from energy and transport infrastructure to residential development.

Strengths:

"She is a barrister with a strong personality and is easy to work with."

Jonathan Selby KC Jonathan Selby KC is a well-established construction silk and a strong choice for professional negligence claims concerning architects, engineers, surveyors and design-and-build contractors. He is particularly knowledgeable about cladding and other design issues relating to large residential developments.

Strengths:

"Jonathan is adored by clients and instructing solicitors alike. He has a solutions-oriented approach and shows great commercial acumen which clients find particularly refreshing."

Samuel Townend KC Samuel Townend KC has amassed a considerable body of expertise in fire safety issues affecting major residential developments. He has acted for claimants and defendants, including fire engineers, in associated professional negligence claims.

Strengths:

"Sam is a great team player. He deals well with very complex matters and thinks through the issues with clarity and vision."

Adrian Williamson KC Adrian Williamson KC is highly experienced in construction law and related professional negligence matters. He is regularly instructed to act for claimants and defendants in claims against project managers, architects, engineers and quantity surveyors. He is an experienced appellate lawyer.

Strengths:

"Adrian is a fast and clear thinker; he absorbs facts quickly and is succinct and clear in providing his advice."

Calum Lamont KC Calum Lamont KC is a well-established construction-focused barrister who has strong expertise in the field of professional negligence and related insurance issues. He is instructed in high-value claims in the UK and abroad, with a significant practice in Middle Eastern jurisdictions.

Strengths:

"He's very effective and extremely personable."

JUNIORS

Alexandra Bodnar Alexandra Bodnar is known for her work both in litigation and arbitration within construction law. She has experience representing contractors, architects and engineers in professional negligence cases, both domestically and internationally.

Strengths:

"She's brilliant and very hard-working"

Richard Coplin A qualified engineer who previously worked in the renewable and alternative energy sectors, Richard Coplin can provide highly specialised advice on technology and construction negligence matters. He regularly handles claims involving engineers, architects and surveyors, and is adept at both litigation and ADR.

Strengths:

"A brilliant commercial barrister with a great technical background. He is a team player."

Tom Owen Tom Owen is an erudite and commercially

minded barrister notable for his appearances, led and unled, in professional negligence claims in the construction industry, particularly those surrounding fire safety.

Strengths:

"A star of the junior Bar. He's committed, hard-working, clear, concise and extremely personable."

"The best senior junior around in my view; Tom is technically excellent, has exceptional drafting skills, and his advocacy is inevitably perfect, particularly in reply whilst thinking on his feet."

David Sheard David Sheard offers considerable experience acting as junior or sole counsel in major claims, including those relating to fire safety defects, structural engineering and other areas.

Strengths:

"Exceptionally bright and hard-working but also pragmatic."

Emma Healiss Emma Healiss has notable experience in claims brought against architects and surveyors. Alongside acting in professional negligence claims she has represented core participants in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

Strengths:

"A barrister who provides very clear and concise advice."

4 Pump Court**THE SET**

4 Pump Court is a chambers which blends legal prowess with huge technical expertise, and boasts an excellent standing at the crossover of professional negligence and construction law. Its barristers handle a range of complex and high-value TCC disputes, representing and opposing architects, engineers and surveyors as well as building contractors. The set offers additional expertise in ICC arbitrations concerning major energy projects, notably in African countries and the Middle East. 4 Pump Court is also a leading chambers for disputes concerning IT infrastructure. Barristers from the set have represented number of the design and engineering firms in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and have acted in related claims arising in the industry, particularly those concerning cladding on Premier Inn hotels. They have also represented a construction management firm in a claim surrounding the largest single-phase petrochemical plant in the Middle East.

Client service:

"The clerks at 4 Pump Court are diligent, and always willing to assist and try make things work, even at short notice."

"The clerks are very helpful and quick to react. Sam Penny gets a special mention."

"Excellent, responsive, all-round friendly service."

"Their clerking is very good, responsive and engaging. They're very efficient and they provide a good service." The clerking is led by Carl Wall and Stewart Gibbs.

SILKS

Rachel Ansell KC Rachel Ansell KC impresses with her handling of negligence claims brought against engineers, contractors and other parties in connection with large construction projects, and has developed particular expertise in cases involving geotechnical engineering. In addition to her strong domestic practice, she regularly handles cases in the Middle East. Some of her recent cases have included disputes in relation to schools, infrastructure and airports.

Strengths:

"She's a strong, sound advocate and she's not afraid to dive in when she needs to."

"She is an excellent advocate, and she fights the client's corner admirably."

"She gives quite direct advice which can be very helpful."

Sean Brannigan KC Sean Brannigan KC is a renowned professional negligence silk who acts in complex and high-value claims arising out of major infrastructure and construction projects. He handles domestic and cross-border disputes, and has particular experience in Northern Ireland. His practice additionally takes in disputes arising in locations such as the United Arab Emirates.

Strengths:

"Sean Brannigan is probably the best cross-examiner in London. He does the work and the preparation. He knows the documents and he listens to the answers, and his follow-up questions are refined."

"You want Sean in your corner on the big-ticket, bet-the-farm disputes."

Fiona Sinclair KC Fiona Sinclair KC is frequently instructed in high-profile disputes involving professional negligence claims relating to major property development projects. She acts for and against architects, consultants and other professionals in the construction sector. She is also knowledgeable about professional indemnity insurance. She has appeared in appeals before the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal.

Strengths:

"I find her incredibly straightforward and no-nonsense."

"Fiona is very well respected and impressive."

Michael Douglas KC Michael Douglas KC has a wide-ranging professional negligence practice encompassing claims against various individuals, including IT professionals, architects, engineers, property surveyors, insurers and solicitors. He represents both claimants and defendants.

Strengths:

"Very smooth, clear-thinking and super bright."

Lynne McCafferty KC Lynne McCafferty KC acts in professional negligence claims for and against a broad range of construction and technology-based clients, including surveyors, architects, computing consultants and software designers. She also has considerable experience advising professional indemnity insurers in associated coverage matters.

Strengths:

"She is exceptionally good at handling complex matters, and is always across the detail."

"Lynne has a very pragmatic mind. She's very clever and very gentle, but more deadly in cross-examination."

"Personable and a delight to work with. She is quick to get a good grip on very technical legal arguments, whilst also understanding the commercial elements of a contract."

Benjamin Pilling KC Benjamin Pilling KC is a well-regarded silk who acts for claimants and developers in a wide array of professional negligence cases arising in the construction and information technology sectors. He is particularly well versed in claims against engineers. His clients include project managers, surveyors and architects.

Strengths:

"One of the best silks at the Bar at the moment. His written work is extremely sound. He knows how to put together a document, whether it's a complex letter or a submission."

James Cross KC James Cross KC handles an impres-

sive array of professional negligence disputes involving property development. He is especially well versed in claims involving fires and other catastrophes caused by defective engineering and construction. He represents a wide range of clients including insurers, engineers, contractors and public bodies.

Strengths:

"James is fantastic at getting into the details of technical disputes and is extremely responsive."

Alexander Hickey KC Alexander Hickey KC is capable of advising on either side of negligence claims brought against surveyors, architects or engineers. He is regularly instructed in complex litigation proceedings regarding property developments, environmental risk assessment and property finance. He is also experienced in adjudications by and against construction industry professionals.

Strengths:

"A brilliant and user-friendly barrister."

Jeremy Nicholson KC Jeremy Nicholson KC is a vastly experienced silk who focuses on professional negligence claims relating to construction projects, particularly those with significant multiparty interests. He is eminently capable of handling highly technical cases concerning architects, engineers, surveyors and other construction professionals. He handles proceedings in the Dubai International Arbitration Centre and other international seats.

Strengths:

"I always find him to be excellent. He's prepared to get stuck into the detail but he can also give us the overarching strategic advice on how best to deal with the issues."

"Simply exceptional in every way and my first port of call for a KC. His advice is of the highest standard: clear, decisive and both legally and commercially sound."

Claire Packman KC Claire Packman KC is well regarded for her construction practice and is instructed in negligence claims against architects, subcontractors and project managers. She has experience dealing with matters in the Middle East.

Strengths:

"Claire is personable but tough with both solicitors and clients."

Jessica Stephens KC Jessica Stephens KC offers considerable expertise in a range of professional negligence disputes. A notable strength is her experience of high-profile cases involving cladding.

Strengths:

"She has really good legal knowledge and she can get to the bottom of a case right from the start."

"She has a no-nonsense approach and cuts to the chase; she's great with clients and always delivers."

JUNIORS

Simon Henderson Simon Henderson is a strong performer in the areas of construction and information technology; he is able to advise comprehensively on professional negligence matters within these fields. He is a particularly strong choice for defending IT companies in professional negligence disputes. He also regularly represents engineers and other professionals in the construction industry.

Strengths:

"Simon is excellent, delivering a fantastic level of service, great advice and cleverly drafted pleadings."

Kate Livesey Kate Livesey has a broad professional negligence practice which sees her acting in technology and construction disputes. She has appeared in multiple cases acting for civil and structural engineers.

Strengths:

"Absolutely top notch in every regard. A pleasure to work with."

"Kate has immense attention to detail and isn't afraid to roll her sleeves up and get stuck in."

James Bowling James Bowling has strong experience of construction disputes involving professional negligence claims, particularly those associated with large energy facilities, whether in the UK or overseas. His recent work has taken in claims brought against energy consultants, quantity surveyors and others.

Strengths:

"James is good at quickly understanding the fundamental issues of the case and being able to see the big-picture issues, whilst remaining detail-oriented."

Simon Hale Simon Hale is a well-respected barrister who offers expertise on both sides of claims against construction professionals including engineers, fire engineers and architects.

Strengths:

"He is very user-friendly and gives very sensible advice."

"Simon is quick on his feet and very commercial. He is great at swiftly understanding matters and developing a strategy in order to meet the client's needs."

"A delight to work with; clients love him and his drafting and advocacy are top notch."

Luke Wygas Luke Wygas is an impressive barrister who represents architects, engineers, surveyors and other professionals in negligence claims which tend to be heavy on technical detail. His practice is notably strengthened by his engineering background.

Strengths:

"He's really, really impressive. I thought his advocacy and written work were really good."

Thomas Crangle Thomas Crangle has a growing presence in the professional negligence arena, drawing on his established reputation in general construction law. He frequently acts in cases involving surveyors and architects.

Strengths:

"Produces very strong advocacy and is really good with clients."

"He is totally dedicated to the job in hand."

Band 2

4 New Square Chambers

THE SET

4 New Square fields a wide array of professional negligence expertise to both claimants and defendants in claims stemming from the construction industry. Its members are much in demand for matters concerning architects and engineers, but also other technical professions such as designers of software or IT infrastructure. The set frequently acts in relation to high-value, complex and sensitive matters including a number of post-Grenfell cladding-related claims. Recently, Ben Patten KC has represented Butler & Young Approved Inspectors in a large dispute concerning the design and construction of the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital in Brighton.

Client service:

"I cannot fault them. I know that if there is ever an issue they will deal with it."

Lizzy Stewart leads the clerking team.

SILKS

Ben Patten KC (see p.907) Ben Patten KC runs an impressive and wide-ranging professional negli-

gence practice, focusing in particular on claims arising in the construction and technology sectors. He acts for both claimants and defendants in negligence actions involving engineers, contractors, architects and other professionals, and is a recognised contributor to the body of writing on professional negligence.

Strengths:

"Ben is one of the best to work with. He has a wonderfully calm manner and is able to analyse the complex very quickly indeed."

"A top silk, very easy to work with and a go-to option."

Roger Stewart KC (see p.933) Roger Stewart KC is a well-regarded construction specialist who acts for claimants and defendants in complex professional negligence disputes. He is also well versed in related insurance claims and in international arbitration. He has experience acting in appellate matters, including before the Supreme Court.

Strengths:

"Very calm, measured and knows what he's doing in all stages. Very persuasive and has a practical sensibility."

Siân Mirchandani KC (see p.894) Siân Mirchandani KC is experienced in a variety of construction-related negligence areas, representing civil engineers, developers and architects, as well as software engineers. She represents both claimants and defendants, and is often involved in disputes involving highly technical elements.

Strengths:

"Siân is one of my go-to barristers. She has a very good manner with the clients and her client service is excellent."

"She has a very technical mind and great attention to detail."

"Siân has provided advice and support in a variety of cases. She delivers clear advice in a straightforward manner. Much in demand."

JUNIORS

Tom Asquith (see p.788) Tom Asquith has strong experience appearing in TCC disputes, representing contractors, architects and surveyors. His expertise includes cladding and fire safety issues.

Strengths:

"Tom is always helpful; he gets involved in the detail and is very much part of the team."

Timothy Chelmick (see p.811) Timothy Chelmick is a highly regarded professional negligence barrister who represents architects and engineers as well as claimant employers, main contractors and others. His background in chemistry and IT enables him to excel in particularly technical cases.

Strengths:

"He's good on his feet, has a good level of detail and knowledge and he's commercial too."

Lucy Colter (see p.816) Lucy Colter is adept at handling negligence claims against architects and engineers. She has particular expertise working in disputes involving listed or protected buildings. She has demonstrated superior advocacy skills when acting unled.

Strengths:

"Highly intelligent and thoughtful."

Crown Office Chambers

THE SET

Crown Office Chambers benefits from a number of high-profile silks and junior barristers who have a wealth of experience acting in negligence claims for and against architects, engineers and surveyors.

They have been heavily involved in high-profile litigation including Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust v Lendlease, the Premier Inn cladding claims, and a case concerning a fire at the National Trust's Clanton House.

Client service:

"The clerks are always very, very efficient. They always try to find the person with the right knowledge and experience."

"Steve Purse is very easy to work with, and understands the market and the client base."

"Rob Cowup is a proactive and extremely effective clerk. Highly reliable."

SILKS

Andrew Rigney KC Andrew Rigney KC possesses a strong track record of handling construction-related professional negligence actions. He acts for claimants and defendants in high-value disputes in the TCC as well as representing clients in international arbitration. He is also knowledgeable about professional indemnity matters. His clients include surveyors and architects.

Strengths:

"Andrew is incredibly responsive and very on top of the detail."

"A brilliant mind with a great eye for detail. A delight to work with."

Ben Quiney KC (see p.913) Ben Quiney KC is capable of advising on a range of professional negligence matters, although he primarily focuses on claims against construction professionals and insurance brokers. He is regularly instructed in cases concerning multimillion-pound losses and high-end commercial developments. He represents clients in appellate proceedings, as well as at first instance.

Strengths:

"Clever, practical and easy to work with."

Crispin Winsor KC Crispin Winsor KC is a highly regarded barrister specialising in TCC cases. His practice takes in professional negligence claims concerning a host of disciplines including civil and structural engineering, fire engineering and cladding design.

Strengths:

"He's just always composed, really, really smart and very measured. He delivers beautiful advocacy which is a pleasure to listen to."

JUNIORS

Nicola Atkins Nicola Atkins accepts a range of professional negligence instructions in the construction sector, often representing architects, structural engineers and surveyors.

Strengths:

"Nicola is an incredibly talented barrister. She is rarely bright and very user-friendly."

"She provides a very, very prompt and quick turnover, but her work is not lacking in anything."

Ivor Collett Ivor Collett has broad expertise covering negligence claims brought against numerous professions, including architects, engineers and others in the construction industry. He acts in technically heavy and legally novel cases concerning a range of building projects.

Strengths:

"He's incredibly courteous and liked by judges, and he's an absolute team player."

Anna Laney Anna Laney specialises in construction law and is well regarded for her expertise in associated professional negligence claims. Her recent work has included both domestic matters concerning

design and engineering, and major international arbitration.

Strengths:

"She just goes the extra mile, using her creativity and intelligence to think of points that we didn't consider previously. She brings a lot to the table."

"Anna is a very good lawyer and always gives strong and robust advice."

Charles Pimlott Charles Pimlott offers considerable experience of defending architects, specialist engineers and others in a variety of substantial defects claims. He has been involved in a number of large-scale pieces of litigation, such as a dispute over various defects on the Beetham Tower in Manchester.

Strengths:

"He is very bright and very user-friendly. His written work is very good."

"He's very good at working with our team, an excellent drafter and very good in his submissions, which are always done to a really high quality."

39 Essex Chambers

THE SET

39 Essex Chambers offers a cadre of highly rated silks whose expertise covers difficult professional negligence elements of construction contract disputes. Key recent instructions include representing FM Conway in the dispute with the Rugby Football Union over the Twickenham Stadium redevelopment. Members are experienced in the representation of architects, specialist engineers and consultants.

Client service:

"The best clerking team I've worked with in 20 years."

"They're always really available and they go above and beyond to match the right person to the right firm and client."

Mark Winrow is the senior practice manager for the commercial, construction and international arbitration teams.

SILKS

Karim Ghaly KC Karim Ghaly KC undertakes significant professional negligence work as part of his busy construction law practice. He appears for and against engineers, architects, specialist subcontractors and other construction professionals, at both first instance and appeal. He also has a strong reputation for handling international arbitrations.

Strengths:

"He's very personable, user-friendly and good with clients."

"He's superb: a very clear-thinking and charming advocate."

Adam Robb KC Adam Robb KC is an experienced practitioner who focuses his attention on professional negligence matters in substantial infrastructure, construction and engineering projects. He provides counsel to engineers, contractors and architects, among others, and is regularly instructed in high-value, multiparty disputes. He is well versed in international arbitration as well as litigation.

Strengths:

"He's one of the best construction KCs at his level. He's very dynamic and user-friendly, and he's pretty unflappable on his feet."

Paul Darling KC Paul Darling KC is a silk who has cultivated an impressively global practice, particularly in construction-related disputes. He has significant experience in professional negligence matters and has brought such cases to the TCC and the appellate courts. He acts for and against architects, project managers and surveyors.

Strengths:

"He's got a very charming style of advocacy. He weaves a story for the judge and makes the case very palatable."

Band 3

Gatehouse Chambers

THE SET

Gatehouse Chambers is home to a select group of barristers possessing deep expertise covering professional negligence claims brought against architects, engineers and others, typically in the context of major construction defects litigation. The barristers have acted in numerous cases concerning structural defects at prominent developments such as The Lancasters overlooking Hyde Park. Several members have notable experience of fire safety and cladding issues.

Client service:

"The clerks at Gatehouse are the best in the country." "The clerking team is great; it's a really well-run chambers."

The practice manager specialising in professional negligence is Patrick Sarson.

SILKS

Paul Reed KC Paul Reed KC has a strong practice in professional negligence disputes concerning construction projects and is the author of the leading legal text on professional indemnity in the construction industry.

Strengths:

"Very experienced, calm and measured."

JUNIORS

Catherine Piercy Catherine Piercy is a widely admired barrister who is regularly instructed as sole counsel to defend claims against structural engineers and other contractors and their insurers.

Strengths:

"An excellent senior junior. She's very easy to work with and understands commercial issues, not just the legal issues."

"She's excellent to work with, is always engaged with the issues; her pleading work is excellent as is her advocacy."

"A fantastic, committed, brilliant and clever all-rounder."

David Pliener David Pliener is instructed extensively in claims of professional negligence in the construction industry. He regularly represents property owners, contractors and engineers, as well as their insurers. He has experience of handling litigation, adjudication and arbitration, and his professional negligence practice is well served by his knowledge of insurance law. He is adept at handling both domestic and international matters.

Strengths:

"Very bright and hard-working. He's an excellent advocate."

"He has a commercial and client-focused approach without compromise on the law. Great at reading the mood in court and adapting."

Michael Wheeler Michael Wheeler appears unled in a variety of TCC negligence claims brought by private, commercial and public agents against construction professionals. He has also acted unled in the Court of Appeal.

Strengths:

"A very good senior junior. He quickly got to grips with all the various issues and made a tremendous contribution to our success."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Anneliese Day KC (see p.824) (Fountain Court Chambers) Anneliese Day KC is a superb choice for complex professional negligence claims related to construction and technology. Her wide-ranging experience includes acting for and against engineers, consultants and other professionals in the construction sector.

Strengths:

"A leading light in this area; she's very thorough and knows the law inside out."

"She's very charismatic, engaging and tenacious."

Neil Moody KC (see p.896) (2 Temple Gardens) Neil Moody KC is head of chambers and a well-respected silk who undertakes a considerable amount of work in the professional negligence space. A substantial proportion of his cases result from utilities or construction projects, where he is also able to bring to bear his extensive experience in property damage, insurance and product liability matters.

Strengths:

"He is highly commercial, and an exceptionally strong and reliable advocate."

Sebastian Oram (3PB Barristers) Sebastian Oram is an experienced barrister focusing on professional negligence claims against construction professionals, among others. He has experience litigating in the Court of Appeal as well as the TCC.

Strengths:

"His drafting style is fabulous: very elegant and user-friendly."

Midlands

Professional Negligence
Leading Sets
Band 1
No5 Barristers' Chambers
St Philips Chambers
Leading Silks
Band 1
Anderson Mark No5 Barristers' Chambers A
Randall John St Philips Chambers *
* Indicates individual with profile.
A direct access.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

No5 Barristers' Chambers

THE SET

No5 Barristers' Chambers can offer barristers experienced in a variety of professional negligence claims, acting for defendants and claimants. Members have appeared in specialist courts and tribunals as well as the High Court. They are particularly active in claims brought against solicitors, often concerning conveyancing, trusts or other property-related matters.

Professional Negligence
Leading Juniors
Band 1
Brennan John St Philips Chambers
Mitchell David No5 Barristers' Chambers A *

SILKS

Mark Anderson KC Mark Anderson KC has an esteemed practice advising on claims against accountants, insurance brokers and banks, as well as having a particularly strong focus on solicitors. He often assists with claims for negligence involving fraud and conveyancing transactions. He is particularly well regarded for his representation of claimants.

Strengths:

"He is personable, thorough, analytical and astute, and well respected in terms of his advocacy."

JUNIORS

David Mitchell (see p.894) David Mitchell is a well-regarded barrister who represents individuals in claims against former solicitors. His expertise also extends

to matters involving financial and tax advisers.

Strengths:

"He's excellent with clients and always well prepared; he has a great courtroom presence and produces great advocacy."

St Philips Chambers

THE SET

St Philips Chambers is a strong set for professional negligence claims against solicitors, and accepts instructions from both claimants and defendants. Its barristers have acted in claims relating to prominent development projects in the West Midlands and beyond. Other areas of strength include claims arising from insolvency matters or the conduct of litigation. One solicitor remarked this year that they regard St Philips "as a vital conduit to legal excellence and expertise."

SILKS

John Randall KC (see p.914) John Randall KC is a leading silk for actions against professionals including solicitors, accountants and engineers. He has a particularly strong practice in matters relating to real estate.

JUNIORS

John Brennan John Brennan is a standout barrister known for his broad chancery and commercial law practice. He is especially strong at handling professional negligence claims brought against solicitors. He is also frequently instructed in claims against engineers and property professionals. He has experience of appearing in courts of all levels, up to the Supreme Court.

Supreme Court.

Strengths:

"John is very good with clients; he's very direct and not stiff at all. He's very approachable and confident."

Northern

Professional Negligence
Leading Sets
Band 1
Kings Chambers
Band 2
Exchange Chambers
Leading Silks
Band 1
Anderson Lesley <i>Kings Chambers</i> *
Chaisty Paul <i>Kings Chambers</i> *
Harper Mark <i>Kings Chambers</i> *
Band 2
Chapman Richard <i>18 St John Street (ORL)</i> ◇
Grantham Andrew <i>Kings Chambers</i> *
Hunter Winston <i>Byrom Street Chambers (ORL)</i> ◇ *
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1**Kings Chambers****THE SET**

Kings Chambers offers a full complement of specialist experience in professional negligence claims. Members of the set have acted in a number of tax-related professional negligence actions against accountancy firms and IFAs, and in claims against solicitors and auditors. The barristers can also offer significant expertise in construction-related claims, including those surrounding the use of combustible architectural cladding.

Client service:

"The clerking is excellent – very responsive and extremely client-facing."

Stephen Loxton is director of clerking. Commercial clerking is led by Gary Young.

SILKS

Lesley Anderson KC (see p.785) Lesley Anderson KC is a respected commercial and chancery practitioner who is noted for her skill in professional negligence matters. She is widely considered to be one of the standout barristers on the Northern Circuit. She represents both claimants and defendants, and is particularly well regarded for her deft handling of claims against solicitors, surveyors and financial advisers.

Paul Chaisty KC (see p.810) Paul Chaisty KC is noted for his representation of professionals such as solicitors and accountants, as well as commercial lenders and corporate clients, in an array of professional negligence matters. His recent caseload has focused on claims regarding advice on tax-efficient investment schemes.

Strengths:

Professional Negligence
Leading Juniors
Band 1
Budworth Martin <i>Kings Chambers</i>
Rowell George <i>Exchange Chambers</i>
Band 2
Berragan Neil <i>Kings Chambers</i> *
Copnall Richard <i>Parklane Plowden (ORL)</i> ◇
Malam James <i>Exchange Chambers</i> *

"Paul is one of the most formidable advocates that I've ever seen. Once he gets his teeth into something, he never lets go. He's incredibly pragmatic and approachable, and clients love him."

Mark Harper KC (see p.849) Mark Harper KC is a respected chancery and commercial silk who is regularly instructed in professional negligence disputes in the legal, investment advisory and accountancy spheres, among others. He is also adept at handling cases concerning partnership and intellectual property matters.

Andrew Grantham KC (see p.844) Andrew Grantham KC is noted for his expert handling of professional negligence claims brought against financial advisers, stockbrokers, surveyors and accountants. He is regularly instructed in cases relating to the mis-selling of tax avoidance schemes.

Strengths:

"Andrew is always the cleverest person in any room. He's an intellectual in terms of his analysis and pleading of cases."

JUNIORS

Martin Budworth Martin Budworth is well regarded as a strong choice for negligence claims against solicitors or auditors.

Strengths:

"Martin is excellent at making clients feel at ease. His commercial awareness is second to none and quite frankly you wouldn't want to be against him in court."

"Martin cuts to the real issues and gives good pragmatic advice based on what the client wants to achieve."

Neil Berragan (see p.797) Neil Berragan is an experienced junior who handles professional negligence matters against financial advisers, legal professionals and accountants. He has acted in a number of film finance claims against financial advisers. He represents both claimants and defendants.

Band 2**Exchange Chambers****THE SET**

Exchange Chambers is a prominent commercial set

on the Northern Circuit. It houses barristers who possess noteworthy expertise in professional negligence claims brought against solicitors, accountants and independent financial advisers. Areas of focus include matters arising from the handling of insolvencies and general business advice and services. In the past year, the set has been instructed in notable cases relating to tax avoidance schemes. Solicitors value the set's "excellent range of counsel at different levels of experience."

Client service:

"Exchange's clerks are very responsive and helpful."

The Manchester chambers director is Nick Buckley.

JUNIORS

George Rowell George Rowell is a well-regarded barrister who specialises in professional negligence disputes. He is particularly experienced in claims against accountants and tax advisers.

Strengths:

"George is methodical, shows great attention to detail and is very considered."

"George is one of the best juniors for professional negligence outside London."

"George has encyclopedic knowledge of tax-related issues."

James Malam (see p.884) James Malam is a commercial barrister whose practice takes in complex professional negligence work concerning legal or financial advice, as well as insolvencies and related matters.

Strengths:

"James is a really good lawyer: technical, commercial and straight-talking."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Richard Chapman KC (18 St John Street) Head of chambers Richard Chapman KC is held in high regard for the strength of his professional negligence practice, which typically focuses on the representation of claimants in claims against solicitors.

Strengths:

"Richard provides straightforward, commercially focused and pragmatic advice."

Richard Copnall (Parklane Plowden) Richard Copnall has a noteworthy practice focusing on claims of negligence brought against social workers.

Strengths:

"I feel confident in the advice and guidance that Richard so expertly provides. He is abreast of a rapidly changing landscape in civil actions. He is responsive and clear."

Winston Hunter KC (see p.861) (Byrom Street Chambers) Head of chambers Winston Hunter KC is frequently instructed in cases arising from professional

negligence claims. He focuses on those brought against solicitors and insurance brokers.

Strengths:

“Winston is a top-rate silk. He has incredible negotiation skills. He is able to deal with every point comprehensively and definitively. He has great depth of legal knowledge.”

Western

Professional Negligence	Professional Negligence	Band 2
Leading Sets	Leading Juniors	
Band 1	Band 1	St John’s Chambers
Guildhall Chambers	Dickinson John FH <i>St John’s Chambers</i> A	THE SET
Band 2	Pearce-Smith James <i>St John’s Chambers</i> A	St John’s Chambers is a highly reputable set acting for individuals, solicitors, banks and many others in professional negligence actions. The barristers represent clients in claims relating to the conduct of litigation, probate, conveyancing and independent financial advice. The set can also field strong expertise in actions against valuers and architects.
St John’s Chambers	Band 2	Client service: Rob Bocock leads the clerking for professional negligence work.
Leading Silks	Doyle Holly <i>Guildhall Chambers</i>	
Band 1	Jagasia Jay <i>Guildhall Chambers</i>	
Sims Hugh <i>Guildhall Chambers</i>	Wibberley James <i>Guildhall Chambers</i>	
A direct access.	Up-and-coming individuals	
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>	Knight Joss <i>St John’s Chambers</i>	

Band 1

Guildhall Chambers

THE SET

Guildhall Chambers is well regarded for its representation of clients in professional negligence claims involving solicitors, accountants, architects and surveyors. The set’s areas of strength include claims arising in the financial services context, including those concerning independent financial advice, and financial product mis-selling. Guildhall’s barristers are also able to advise on insolvency-related claims. One solicitor remarked upon interview, “I have no hesitation in using this set for their ability to handle complex matters.”

Client service:

“Guildhall wields knowledgeable and reliable clerks with genuine interest and an approachable manner.” Lucy Northeast and Oliver Edwards are the senior practice managers.

SILKS

Hugh Sims KC Hugh Sims KC is a leading barrister for advising claimants on professional negligence matters against solicitors, surveyors, accountants and construction companies. He receives instructions both locally and nationally.

Strengths:

“Hugh gives clear guidance and advice whilst also being very approachable.”

“He has the ability to second-guess the opponent.”

JUNIORS

Holly Doyle Holly Doyle has an established practice in professional negligence arising in various circumstances, including financial services mis-selling and insolvency. She has strong knowledge in respect of claims brought against solicitors, accountants and IFAs.

Strengths:

“Holly is thorough, knowledgeable, approachable and good with clients.”

Jay Jagasia Jay Jagasia is increasingly well known for his helpful and thorough advice in professional negligence claims. He has a notable practice generally concerning property matters, and taking in claims against solicitors, insurance brokers and surveyors.

Strengths:

“Jay is a forceful advocate who always gives the case his best efforts.”

“Very approachable and provides clear advice on a complex matter.”

James Wibberley James Wibberley offers skilful representation of claimants and defendants in claims involving solicitors, surveyors, financial advisers and insurance brokers.

Strengths:

“James is a thorough adviser with a close eye for detail. He is good at explaining complex situations to lay clients.”

“James is very responsive and friendly, and his clients love him.”

JUNIORS

John Dickinson John Dickinson advises on professional negligence claims in the accountancy and legal sectors. He offers significant expertise acting in claims concerning conveyancing transactions and probate work, and also acts in claims against engineers.

James Pearce-Smith James Pearce-Smith is well known for representing banks in professional negligence lender claims. He is particularly adept at handling claims against solicitors, valuers, architects and surveyors.

Strengths:

“James is very communicative and responsive. He quickly gets to grips with complicated subject matter.”

Joss Knight Joss Knight has a broad practice in the professional negligence field, and is notable for his work in claims against solicitors and architects.

Strengths:

“Joss is very user-friendly. He’s a can-do lawyer who’s excellent at contentious probate. He provides good, sound advice and ticks all the boxes.”