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Philip Davy

Year of Call: 2009
Telephone: 0115 947 2581

Overview

Philip specialises exclusively in personal injury work.

His caseload has an equal split between claimants and defendants across what are now almost exclusively higher-value or complex cases.

Personal Injury

All types of PI work undertaken for claimant and defendant, including:

- Accidents at work
- Public liability claims
- Industrial disease (noise, vibration, asbestos etc)
- Clinical negligence, dental negligence and botched cosmetic procedures
- Animals Act 1971 claims
- Catastrophic and life-changing injuries and fatal accidents
- Abuse claims (historic sexual and physical abuse), an area of particular expertise

General

Philip is regularly instructed on JSMs and CCMCs, alongside his paperwork practice. He is available to conduct remote hearings, as well as being able to travel nationally.

He has been on the winning side in the Court of Appeal (where he appeared as sole counsel against a KC), and in the Supreme Court in the case of Armes (now regarded as the 'high water mark' of the doctrine of vicarious liability).

He has been nominated twice for PI Junior of the Year at the Legal 500 Bar Awards, in 2022 and 2023, alongside considerably more senior practitioners. He is the only junior to have been nominated in both consecutive years and one of only two outside London in both those years.

He is always at the end of the phone to answer any queries, believing that early and continued collaboration with instructing solicitors is the best way to a successful outcome in any case. He is valued for being a straightforward communicator in court and for his personable manner with clients.

Expertise

Personal Injury

Personal injury forms by far the largest part of Philip's advocacy and paperwork practices. He maintains a fairly equal split between claimant and defendant work and is experienced in Fast and Multi Track claims, including on appeal.

His current caseload includes advocacy and drafting in road traffic accidents, accidents at work, Highways Act cases, occupiers' liability, defective premises and product liability.

He has particular experience of cases involving limitation and complicated issues of causation. He is regularly instructed on CICA appeals.

He has acted in several multi-day inquests, including those where his own client also has one eye on bringing, or potentially having to defend, subsequent civil proceedings.

He is more than happy to consider instructions on a CFA basis, and will act on that basis where the merits of a particular case permit.

Disease

Philip has considerable experience dealing with trials and interim applications in disease cases, for claimants and defendants alike, on both the Fast- and Multi-Tracks. He routinely appears against significantly more senior opponents.

He is always available at short notice to draft pleadings (and where particularly urgent, he can turnaround papers often within 24 hours). He is also available to attend conferences with clients/experts in disease cases.

There has recently been a meteoric rise in the number of noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) cases, which represents about 80% of Philip's disease practice, but his caseload also includes HAVS, dermatitis, upper limb disorders, occupational asthma and other respiratory conditions.

Where limitation is being dealt with as a preliminary issue, Philip is happy to advise and to act at the limitation trial. He has a 100% success rate acting for defendants at limitation trials.

Abuse

Philip has appeared at all levels of court in abuse cases, including in the Supreme Court in *Armes v Nottinghamshire County Council* [2017] UKSC 60, in hindsight the high water mark for the expansion of the doctrine of vicarious liability. The outcome of the case was that the doctrine was extended so as to make local authorities liable, even without fault on their part, for abuse perpetrated by foster parents upon foster children in the home, despite foster parents not in fact being employees of the local authority.

He is as comfortable with single-claimant claims as he is with group actions. He is available at short notice for drafting and advisory work. He appreciates the need in such cases for a forensic and methodical approach, as well as for tact and empathy given both the serious nature of the allegations being made in this area of work, as well as the potentially serious and long-lasting consequences abuse can have.

Instructions are accepted from claimants and defendants alike. On behalf of claimants, Philip is happy to accept instructions on a CFA basis if the prospects of success are sufficient.

Motor

A large amount of Philip's time in court is spent on motor cases, whether for claimant or defendant usually where allegations of dishonesty have been raised.

He is very familiar with 'low-velocity impact' (LVI) cases and those where personal injury claims are presented long after the event.

He appears in Fast and Multi Track trials in motor cases, at least once a week and usually even more frequently.

Counter Fraud

Philip is frequently instructed by defendant insurers in cases arising out of (alleged) accidents where dishonesty/fraud is raised. He is, likewise, often trusted by claimants to represent their interests in such cases.

He has successfully obtained findings of 'fundamental dishonesty' for defendants in several claims for damages arising out of (alleged) accidents, both in a motoring context as well as in public and employers' liability claims.

Likewise, he has successfully resisted findings of fundamental dishonesty on behalf of claimants accused of the same in motor and other claims.

Animals & Equine

Philip has acted for both claimants and defendants in cases involving injuries caused by both domestic animals and livestock. He is familiar with the Animals Act 1971 and the particular breed of liability which arises under that Act.

He is available at short notice for drafting and advisory work, as well as representation at trial or at interim hearings.

Professional Negligence

Philip acts for Claimants and Defendants.

He has successfully argued cases arising out of negligence on the part of solicitors (whether in their handling of personal injury matters, or non-PI work including conveyancing), as well as non-lawyers (including accountants, social workers etc). Currently dealing with a long-running claim against 4 separate parties (specialists in various professional disciplines), arising out of their alleged negligence relating to the purchase of a hotel at a substantially inflated sum.

He also has experience acting for the defence, including in striking-out professional negligence claims against solicitors at an early stage, to avoid the incidence of substantial defence costs.

Notable Cases

SKX v Manchester City Council [2021] EWHC 782 (QB). For more on this case, please click here.

(1) Worthington (2) Parkin v Metropolitan Housing Trust Ltd [2018] EWCA Civ 1125. For more on this case, please click here.

Armes v Nottinghamshire County Council [2017] UKSC 60. For more on this case, please click here.

Awards

Nominated for Personal Injury Junior of the Year at the Legal 500 Bar Awards 2022

Professional Memberships

Personal Injuries Bar Association

Midland Circuit

Qualifications

Nottingham High School

University of Sheffield (Law LLB)

Wolfson and Hardwicke scholar of Lincoln's Inn

Recommendations

"An exceptional advocate. Philip can quickly get to the heart of the matter. Judges take a liking to him."

- The Legal 500 2026

"Philip has a good eye for detail and a precise approach to his work that is ideally suited to industrial disease litigation. His advocacy skills are impressive."

- The Legal 500 2025

"Philip has a strong background and knowledge in abuse cases. He is approachable and works well as part of a team on these types of cases. His advice is clear, and he considers the practicalities of the case."

- The Legal 500 2023

"Philip Davy is a personal injury junior whose practice has a particular emphasis on abuse cases representing both claimants and defendants. He is no stranger to high-value litigation and has growing expertise in appellate work."

"Philip is a very talented advocate."

- Chambers and Partners 2023

"He is approachable and a team player and he is very knowledgeable and experienced in the field of personal injury law and particularly in cases involving abuse."

- The Legal 500 2022

"He is very easy to deal with and is very good with clients. Excellent both in court and on paper."

- Chambers and Partners 2022

"Approachable and very capable, always provides a good service."

- The Legal 500 2021

"Excellent on abuse cases – he has a strong knowledge of the law and relevant procedure."

- Chambers and Partners 2020

"Phil Davy is an incredible advocate – he's courageous and very good on his feet. He understands the clients' concerns and issues and he always goes the extra mile to get the right result."

- Chambers & Partners 2019

"A personal injury junior whose practice has a particular emphasis on abuse cases representing both Claimants and Defendants. He is no stranger to high-value litigation. Very approachable and in court vigorously defends his client's position. He has impressed us with his pragmatism and commercial approach. He has a keen eye for detail."

- Chambers and Partners 2018

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