



William Norris KC

Year of call: 1974 | Silk: 1997

Email: william.norris@39essex.com

Phone: +44 (0)20 7832 1111

"A class act".

Chambers and Partners

"Excellent advocacy and sector knowledge.....he leaves no stone unturned and is one of the outstanding advocates of his generation".

The Legal 500

William has a broad, common law, practice, specialising in major personal injury and product liability litigation. He also has expertise in such disparate areas as wind farm/environmental litigation (including the Conservation/Habitats Regulations, bloodstock disputes (and Animals Act cases) and sexual abuse claims.

William also acts as an arbitrator and disciplinary tribunal chairman and is one of the panel chairs of Sport Resolutions, National Anti-Doping, World Athletics and the FA (including Rule K arbitrations) and in other sports including polo.

He is a former Chair of the Personal Injuries Bar Association and an experienced Mediator and Arbitrator in Personal Injury cases as well as being General editor of Kemp and Kemp ; 'The Quantum of Damages', Consultant Editor of 'Personal Injury Practice and Procedure' and a contributor to 'Brain Injury Claims'. Away from the law, he is chairman of the Injured Jockeys Fund.

Areas of expertise

Personal Injury

Product Liability

Civil Liability

Wind Farm Inquiries and Judicial Review

Sport

Sport

In addition to acting as one of the Chairs of Sport Resolutions' General Panel, the National Anti-Doping Panel, World Athletics, the FA Independent Judicial Panel, and The Hurlingham Polo Association Appeal Panel, William's particular areas of experience include

- Racing and Bloodstock: as advocate acting for leading owners, trainers over many years in cases heard by the Jockey Club and (more recently) the BHA. Later one of the chairs of the BHA Judicial Panel (resigned 2021). Litigation on behalf of owners, trainers and veterinarians as acting as advocate and as arbitrator and mediator.
- Football: advising or acting as arbitrator/disciplinary panel chair/member of football cases involving
 - Disciplinary matters generally including Doping
 - Financial Fair Play and Points Deductions/Penalties for Clubs entering administration
 - Transfer rules and obligations
 - Disputes between Agents and players/clubs/governing bodies
 - Betting
- Selection and Funding disputes (including arguments over venue) involving many sports and individual athletes as well as sporting/national bodies
- Issues as to the proper and fair regulation of sport including
 - Exclusion of competitors (such as those with links to Russia)
 - Relationship of Clubs with their governing bodies (going back to disputes between the professional clubs and the Welsh Rugby Union in the late 1990s)

Memberships

- Personal Injury Bar Association
- Planning and Environment Bar Association

Recommendations

Highly recommended in both Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500.

Quotes:

"An outstanding performer and talented counsel." Chambers UK 2018

"A brilliant and charming trial advocate." Chambers UK 2018

"Immensely experienced, innovative and an exceptional advocate." Legal 500 2017

"A strong advocate, who presents complex arguments in a simple manner." Legal 500 2017

"He's very impressive on his feet. If you want someone to fiercely fight your corner, you go to him." Chambers UK 2017

"He is one of the senior silks that judges listen to." Chambers UK 2016

"His judgement in liability is particularly excellent." Chambers UK 2016

"Particularly good in wind farm cases and environmental judicial review" Legal 500 2016

"He remains one of the foremost leaders of the personal injury Bar." Legal 500 2016

"Sought after for his particular expertise in wind farm matters." Legal 500 2015

"A superb advocate with a steely commitment to his cases." Legal 500 2015

"Sought after for his experience in wind farm related environment issues." Legal 500 2015

"His main attributes are his knowledge of large, complex and high-profile PI actions, and his approachability." Chambers UK 2015

"A superstar of the PI bar." Legal 500 2014

"I could talk to you about him for a fortnight. He's right at the top of the tree - he's an extremely adept and versatile performer in virtually any type of claim." Chambers UK 2014

"He has a lovely way with the clients, and manages to entertain whilst communicating effectively and hitting home with all his points." Chambers UK 2014

London

81 Chancery Lane,
London
WC2A 1DD
Tel: +44 (0)20 7832 1111
DX: London/Chancery Lane 298
Fax: +44 (0)20 7353 3978

MANCHESTER

82 King Street,
Manchester
M2 4WQ
Tel: +44 (0)16 1870 0333
Fax: +44 (0)20 7353 3978

SINGAPORE

Maxwell Chambers,
28 Maxwell Road,
WC2A 1DD
04-03 & 04-04, Maxwell Chamber
Suites
Singapore 069120
Tel: +65 6320 9272

KUALA LUMPUR

#02-9, Bangunan Sulaiman
Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin,
50000 Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia
Tel: +60 32 271 1085

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clerks@39essex.com • DX: 298 London/Chancery Lane • 39essex.com