



Matthias Kelly KC

Year of call: 1979 | Silk: 1999

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“one of the most hardworking and approachable barristers”

The Legal 500

Matt is a legal science graduate of Trinity College Dublin (1977). He then studied in London and qualified as a Barrister, being called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1979. He was subsequently admitted as Barrister in Northern Ireland (1983) and the Republic of Ireland (1983). He qualified as an Attorney in New York in 1983 and was admitted to the US Federal Bar in 1984. He is a King’s Counsel (KC) in London and a Senior Counsel (SC) in Dublin.

He is a past Chairman of the Bar of England and Wales and a past Chairman of the UK Personal Injuries Bar Association. He is an Examiner of the High Court of England and Wales. He has appeared before, and argued cases, in every Court in both England and Wales and the Republic of Ireland up to and including the Supreme Courts in both countries. He is a Bencher of The Hon. Society of Gray’s Inn, London.

Areas of expertise

Inquiries and Inquests

Clinical Negligence and Personal Injury

Abuse

Industrial Disease

Court of Protection

Industrial Disease

Matt has appeared in many cases over the years involving industrial diseases such as vibration white finger, dust induced chest injury, mesothelioma, skin disease, industrial deafness, injuries causing serious injuries and allergies.

Cases of note:

- ***Raymond Shanks v Swan Hunter Group PLC (2007) EWHC B4*** - Mesothelioma claim damages of £1,000,00.
- ***Christine Perry v Post Office, High Court, London, Mr Justice Griffith Williams, 18/10/2001*** - The issue was can trauma cause MS? After hearing extensive and detailed expert

medical evidence and argument the Court concluded that it could not on its own cause MS

- ***Cleary v Shannon and others (2014) High Court Dublin*** - Can trauma cause MS? Matt successfully acted for the Claimant.
- ***Rob Dawber v Eastern Infrastructure, York County Court, HHJ Swanson, 1/3/2000*** - First case establishing liability for mesothelioma arising out of low level, outdoor, intermittent occupational exposure to "white" asbestos. Later made into a film by Ken Loach "The Navigators" (2001)
- ***Wright v JWC (1947) Ltd. High Court, London,*** - Mesothelioma, pension loss and tax implications.
- ***William Searle v BRB (Residuary) Ltd, mesothelioma, High Court London 2012.***
- *A Gardner v Alliance Long Acre, High Court. London, Mesothelioma, 2011-2012.*
- ***Marshall v Laporte Industries Ltd (2010-2011). High Court, London. Mesothelioma***

Memberships

- Personal Injuries Bar Association (PIBA)
- Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers, (ADRL)
- Court of Protection Bar Association (COPBA)
- Western Circuit

Qualifications

Education

- St. Patrick's Academy, Dungannon,, Co. Tyrone (1969-1973)
- Trinity College Dublin (1973-1977) BA (Mod) LLB
- Inns of Court School Law, London (1978)
- 1979: Barrister; Gray's Inn (member of the Western circuit.)
- 1983: Barrister; King's Inn, Dublin and Inn of Court, Belfast. 1986: Attorney; New York State Bar.
- 1987: Attorney; U.S. Federal Bar.
- 1999: Queen's Counsel.

Additional Information

Appointments

- Chairman of the Bar of England and Wales, 2003.
- Vice Chairman of the Bar Council of England and Wales 2002.
- Chairman, Bar Conference (England and Wales) 2001.
- Vice-Chairman Bar Conference (England and Wales) 2000.
- Chairman, Personal Injuries Bar Association, 2001-2002, Vice Chairman, 2000-2001.
- Chairman of the Policy Committee of the Bar Council of England and Wales, 2000.
- Vice Chairman, Disciplinary Appeals Panel, Institute of Actuaries (England and Wales) 2000 to 2019
- Member Inter-Professional Working party on the actuarial assessment of damages in personal injury and fatal accident litigation ("The Ogden tables" 3rd and 4th editions). 1997-2002.
- Member of the Committee of Inquiry ("Blackwell Committee") established by the Lord Chancellor to

inquire into the activities of non-legally qualified loss adjusters, 1999-2000.

- Consultant to European Commission on UK Health and Safety Law, 1994-96.
- Member Gray's Inn Management Committee 1993-1995.
- 2002: Bencher of The Hon. Society of Gray's Inn, London.
- 2005: Senior Counsel, Republic of Ireland.
- 2008: Accredited mediator.
- 2018: Examiner of the High Court.

Publications

- Author of a chapter on UK Damages in *"Contemporary Studies in Economic and Financial Analysis"*, Volume 91, Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Damages Calculations, a Transatlantic Dialogue, Emerald Press, 2009.
- *"A comparison of Securities litigation in the US and the EU"*, International Atlantic Economic Conference, Warsaw, Poland, 12th April 2008, joint paper with Arthur A. Eubank, Jr, Ph.D.
- Author Chapter on Multipliers in Manual of Personal Injuries; Sweet & Maxwell 1997 (1st edition) 2000 (2nd edition), 2007 (3rd edition).
- Member editorial panel Sweet & Maxwell specialist research papers 1996-2000.
- Joint Editor, Manual of Personal of Personal Injuries (Sweet and Maxwell), 1997 (1st Ed) 2000 (2nd Ed.)
- Joint editor and contributor to *"Munkman on Employers Liability"*, 13th edition, Butterworths, 2002.
- *"Multipliers"*, article for newsletter of Institute of Chartered Accountants, 1999.
- *"Legal Aid"*, The Lawyer, June 1999
- *"Child Abuse, uncovering the facts"*, New Law Journal, 1994.
- *"Achieving full compensation"*, New Law Journal, 1994.
- Journal of Personal Injury Law, 2000 JPIL pages 137-141. (Sweet & Maxwell): Review of Law on dependency claims in Fatal Accidents Claims).
- Review of the leading PI cases in 1999/2000 *"The Lawyer"*, 16/10/2000.
- *"Independence day for the Bar"*. Human Rights. The Times, 25/9/01.
- *"Are brokers' fees recoverable?"* Kemp 5-282/1. 27/3/02.
- *"Funding awards: all change?"* Solicitors Journal 6th September 2002, p 774.
- Participant in Experts meeting on *"Standards for settling Personal Injury Claims in Europe"*, University of Tilburg, Netherlands 11th January 2002.
- *Damages for successive torts*, 24th September 2002, Butterworths Tolley, London.
- *"Consequences of the Hitler-Stalin Pact"* Riga Graduate School of Law, Riga, Latvia, 30th April 2005.
- Lecture University of Tours, 12th & 13th November 2015 *"Magna Carta Today"*.
- *"Where is Magna Carta Today?"*, in The Rights and Aspirations of the Magna Carta, Palgrave Macmillan; 1st ed. 2016 edition
- Università degli Studi di Brescia, *"International law and counter terrorism"*. 18th May 2016.
- Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa, *"Law, National Security and Terrorism in a Democratic Society"* 19th May 2016.
- University of Bordeaux 16th March 2018 *"National perceptions of Judges and Lawyers in Common Law and Civil law Jurisdictions"*.

- Università degli Studi di Brescia, *"International law and counter terrorism"*. 18th May 2016.
- Pantheon-Assas (Paris 2), Sorbonne. Possible relationships and co-operation between the UK and the EU post-Brexit, 25-26 May 2019.

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