



Matthias Kelly KC

Year of call: 1979 | Silk: 1999

Email: kelly@39essex.com

Phone: +44 (0)20 7832 1111

“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

Inquiries and Inquests

Matt has appeared in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, the Brook House Inquiry (2022), The Disclosures Tribunal (Dublin 2019-2020). He chaired the Independent review of the administration and finances of ASLEF (the train driver’s union) (2004). From 2005-2007 he was the full-time legal advisor to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment in Dublin, overseeing Company Investigations. Matt has also conducted an independent Inquiry into allegations of sexual harassment and discrimination for CWU (the communications workers Union) (2004). Matt was appointed by the Irish Government to conduct an Independent review of discovery by the Department of Education and Science to the Commission to inquire into child abuse in Irish Institutions. 2004. Matt was Chairman of the Hepatitis C Working Party established by the Haemophilia Society in September 2001, to devise costed proposals for a financial assistance fund to recognise the loss and suffering of people with haemophilia resulting from their infection with hepatitis C

(HCV which reported in March 2002.

Cases of note:

- **Inquest into Death of Tamara Mills (south Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust) 2015** - Inquest into the death of a 13 year old girl. Matt represented her family. The coroner concluded that she suffered "a premature death contributed to by a lack of appreciation and/or reaction to the deteriorating nature of her chronic respiratory condition (asthma) and the absence of any planning to monitor, manage and co-ordinate her care, improvement, its sustainability and prevent her death"

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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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