



Daniel Laking

Year of call: 2015

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“Daniel is incredibly sharp, with an ability to absorb and analyse large volumes of information quickly and accurately, following which he formulates sound advice and strategy.” The Legal 500 2024

Daniel has a broad civil litigation and public law practice, specialising principally in the fields of personal injury and clinical negligence, insurance fraud, costs and litigation funding, inquests, inquiries and investigations, and health and safety. He is ranked in The Legal 500 in the areas of clinical negligence and costs.

He is a proficient and experienced advocate, having appeared in tribunals, County Courts, the Crown Court, the Coroner’s Court, and in the High Court, both led and as sole counsel. Alongside his court work, he has a busy advisory and paperwork practice.

Daniel is familiar working for a wide range of clients, from individuals to corporations and government departments. He is currently instructed as junior counsel to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and is appointed to the Attorney General’s C Panel.

Daniel is a specialist contributor to Bullen & Leake’s Precedents of Pleadings, a contributing expert to Lexis Nexis PSL in the fields of personal injury, clinical negligence and dispute resolution, and is a trustee of Pro Bono Community, a charity that provides training and placements to law students in advice centres across London. He also volunteers for the Independent Provider of Special Education Advice (IPSEA), a charity offering legal advice to parents of children with special educational needs.

Areas of expertise

Personal Injury

-- Insurance Fraud

-- Product Liability

-- Health and Safety

Clinical Negligence

Investigations

Inquests

Costs and Litigation Funding

Costs and Litigation Funding

Daniel is ranked as a Tier 1 “rising star” in the field of costs litigation in The Legal 500, 2024.

He is a sought-after junior in the field of costs litigation. He regularly appears before Costs Judges in the Senior Courts Costs Office as well as before Regional Costs Judges both led and in his own right. He is frequently instructed in high-value cases and those involving complex and novel points of law, particularly at Detailed Assessment.

He is available to advise on tactics and procedure in relation to Detailed Assessment hearings and related applications. He is also available to assist in cases where his specialisms overlap, for example, recovering costs of inquest proceedings in subsequent civil litigation and detailed assessments arising out of public law proceedings. He has recently been instructed in APIL’s judicial review of the October 2023 intermediate track costs reforms.

He is instructed in the County and High Courts on costs points that arise during substantive litigation (such as disputes on the application of CPR 44 fixed costs or costs-only hearings) and additionally has been instructed as specialist costs counsel in large-scale banking and tax litigation.

As a personal injury and fraud specialist, Daniel is familiar with all aspects of costs as they relate to personal injury (PI) and clinical negligence cases. He is frequently instructed in costs and case management conferences as well as costs applications that arise in civil proceedings. He has a full understanding of the exceptions to qualified one-way costs shifting and has been successful in recovering costs under both Civil Procedure Rule (CPR) r44.15 and CPR r44.16 in bespoke applications. He has also been instructed in applications for wasted and indemnity costs as well as in relation to Part 36 offers.

Cases of note:

- Representation of the client in a solicitor/own client Detail Assessment which resulted in the firm being referred to the SRA
- APIL judicial review challenging elements of the recent fixed costs reforms
- Advising on costs in excess of £2m arising from Tax Tribunal proceedings
- Detailed Assessment on the recoverability of pre-LASPO ATE premium
- Summary assessment proceedings in the High Court arising out of an abuse claim
- Advising on costs arising from ADR procedures and internal investigations
- Detailed Assessment relating to the Civil Legal Aid (Costs) Regulations 2013

Memberships

- Personal Injury Bar Association
- South Eastern Circuit

Qualifications

Education

- New College, Oxford: BA (Hons) Music
- City University, London: GDL (Commendation)
- City Law School, London: BPTC (Outstanding)

Scholarships

- Buchanan Prize
- Shelford Scholarship
- Lord Denning Scholarship
- Lord Haldane Scholarship
- Hardwicke Entrance Award

Additional Information

Appointments

- Trustee, Pro Bono Community
- Lexis Nexus Panel Expert
- Executive Committee, Personal Injury Bar Association
- Author, Bullen & Leake's Precedents of Pleadings, Product Liability

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