



William Norris KC

Year of call: 1974 | Silk: 1997

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"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

Personal Injury

William's expertise in this area has long been recognised in the directories. He acts for claimants and defendants as well as editing the leading textbook (Kemp & Kemp) on personal injury damages.

Cases of note:

- ***Atmani & Others v Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (ongoing)*** - Acting for the London Fire Commissioner on all civil claims (public and employer's liability) claims arising out of the Grenfell Tower fire.
- ***JL v Archbishop Bowen* [2017] EWCA Civ 82** - Claimant alleged sex abuse over 15-year period: issues of consent, vicarious liability and limitation in particular.
- ***Summers v Fairclough Homes* [2012] UKSC 26** - A landmark personal injury case in which the central issue was whether a claimant's fraud in relation to one part of the claim was fatal to the whole of the claim.
- ***Poppleton v Trustees of Portsmouth Youth AC* [2008] EWCA Civ 646** - Leading case on the extent to which an activity centre owed a common law/supervisory duty to an adult visitor.
- ***Murray v Devenish* [2018] EWHC 1895 (QB)** - Claim by former schoolboy alleging sexual abuse at Catholic seminary in the 1970s raising issues of limitation
- ***Yates v National Trust* [2014] EWHC 222 (QB)** - Claimant, a self-employed tree surgeon, suffered catastrophic injuries when falling from a tree while working for an uninsured contractor: claim brought against owner of land which had engaged the contractor.
- ***Ford v Seymour-Williams* [2021] EWCA Civ 1848** - Animals Act claim (claimant badly injured when rising defendant's horse which reared as a result of an unforeseeable medical event.

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

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