



We offer unrivalled multi-disciplinary expertise in claims arising from or in connection with fire and fire safety. We are leaders in the field in offering specialist and comprehensive advice to any client advising and litigating fire claims. We are at the forefront of fire and fire related litigation given our leading role in numerous high profile fire matters, including *The Grenfell Tower Inquiry*, *Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust v Lendlease Construction (Europe)* and *Sid-Ali Atmani & Ors v (1) Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea (2) The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation Limited*.

Our barristers possess a wealth of experience in fire and fire safety disputes in construction and insurance. From acting in complex multi-party claims about non-compliance with the Building Regulations, breaches of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order and cladding to advising on defective fire safety measures in building design and procured infrastructure. We act in complex contractual disputes, high value property damage claims and claims concerning contractors' liability and professional negligence.

We frequently advise on potential civil and criminal liabilities, health and safety prosecutions and anti-social behaviour injunctions connected

to arson and other fire-related risk. We have a wealth of experience in acting in inquests and inquiries.

Who do we act for?

We act for a range of clients across the spectrum of fire litigation. We are instructed by insurers, sub-contractors, developers, building owners and manufacturers. We act for Fire Services, local and central Government. We are dedicated to acting for victims of fire, particularly the bereaved, survivors and residents.

Where do we act?

Our practice is domestic and international. We act in all courts and tribunals in England and Wales. Numerous members are qualified to act in many international jurisdictions.

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PAUL DARLING KC
(Call 1983, Silk 1999)

Paul has been instructed in an extremely wide range of cases in the construction and engineering and sector. He has appeared in courts and tribunals throughout

the British Isles, in Ireland, Europe, the Middle East and the Far East. He has worked on cases in all areas of construction, engineering and energy. Approximately a hundred of his cases have been reported. He is particularly known for his advocacy and his cross examination. He has very considerable experience in the commercial world and as a government appointed regulator which he brings to his cases. Paul also has a considerable interest in health and safety in the public sector, having been Chairman of the Sports Ground Safety Authority, the body set up after Hillsborough to prevent recurrence of that disaster. In that capacity he has considered and managed risk based regulation and disaster prevention in the public sector at the highest levels and providing advice to ministers. His work covered design and construction of stadia and other structures and safety management generally. The SGSA was the authority responsible for licensing stadia and the contents of Safety Certificates. It was responsible for reviewing the contents of Safety Certificates issued by local authorities. He liaised extensively with all integrated groups including spectators. His experience involved issues of fire safety and management.



NEIL BLOCK KC
(Call 1980, Silk 2002)

Neil is a senior silk with an established practice in insurance, professional liability and product liability. He is regularly instructed in property damage

claims, particularly those related to fire and consequential losses. He also regularly advises on insurance coverage issues following fire.



KATE GRANGE KC
(Call 1998, Silk 2017)

Kate was appointed one of the Lead Counsel to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry in July 2017. Her considerable experience in construction law has meant that she has

taken the lead in all technical and construction aspects of the Inquiry's work and this has required a grasp of a very wide range of technical and policy issues. As a result Kate, has extensive knowledge of fire safety legislation and guidance and a detailed understanding of fire engineering, fire dynamics, testing and certification. She has cross-examined key witnesses including the lead architect and fire engineer, key personnel from the cladding contractor, witnesses for the cladding manufacturers and regulators, together with key experts including Professor Jose Torero (fire dynamics) and Dr Barbara Lane (fire engineer). She also questioned important government witnesses including Melanie Dawes (former Permanent Secretary MHCLG) and Lord Barwell (former housing minister). Kate's performance in questioning witnesses has attracted considerable praise from commentators and from the victims of the fire. Her cross-examination is featured in the 'Value Engineering' play (edited by Richard Norton-Taylor and directed by Nicholas Kent). She has been praised for her meticulous grasp of detail, her incisive questioning and also her humanity and compassionate approach with victims and vulnerable witnesses. As well as her work on the Inquiry, Kate's practice also includes substantial and complex litigation, arbitrations or mediations arising out of large-scale commercial, construction and engineering, insurance and professional negligence disputes – a number of which have involved fire matters.



GEOFFREY BROWN
(Call 1981)

Geoffrey has many years' experience of cases arising from fires in the civil liability context. This spans a wide range of liability claims in respect of property damage

and personal injury, including professional (and contractors') liability and product liability, claims arising from construction projects and claims against energy companies. It also covers a wide range of associated insurance issues and disputes – including in relation to alleged fraud, policy avoidance, breach of warranty and coverage.



JONATHAN BELLAMY
(Call 1986)

Jonathan has an established advisory and representation practice in insurance, professional liability and construction law. His practice includes

litigation and arbitration work involving complex contractual disputes, tort claims, first and third party liability insurance and associated professional liability issues. He is experienced in dealing with disputes involving fire prevention and insulation cladding and generally arising from fire in construction projects such as social housing, housing association accommodation, warehouse, storage, retail, manufacturing, agricultural, licensed trade, restaurant, hotels and premium residential. Jonathan is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and a practising domestic and international Chartered Arbitrator in the sector.



JOHN DENIS-SMITH
(Call 1998)

John has experience in fire cases and fire prevention works, in particular in relation to construction and insurance issues arising, including the following:

1. Advising and acting for sub-contractors on (ongoing) claims arising out of alleged non-compliance with Building Regulations concerning fire in the construction of internal and external works, including external cladding, in a complex multi-party dispute arising out of the design and construction of a specialist emergency care hospital in Northumberland, in which quantum is claimed in excess of £125m.
2. Advising developer/building owner on liability and limitation issues concerning claims in contract and tort against a building contractor in respect of fire cladding in a residential building.
3. Advice and acting in property damage disputes, including negotiations leading to successful settlement of, claims by building owners against contractor and specialist sub-contractor, including fire damage and insurance coverage issues, on matters ranging from a warehouse fire in commercial premises to a fire in a town hall/museum in London.
4. Advising/acting in the successful defence of claims in nuisance and negligence arising out of fire damage to properties previously owned by the client.



SHAMAN KAPOOR
(Call 1999)

Shaman is instructed as a Senior-Junior on behalf of 83 claimants bringing civil claims arising out of the Grenfell Tower fire tragedy in June 2017. He has a keen

interest in construction and design and is driven by getting to grips with the technical specification and detail. Drawing on a rounded common law experience for claimants and defendants, including negligence, property and landlord and tenant disputes, his recent experience in Building Regulations, CDM and Fire Safety make him a strong choice in the Fire Sector.



DAVID MITCHELL
(Call 2004)

David is instructed in employment and judicial review cases for Fire Services, most often defending class actions in respect of firefighters'

contractual terms (particularly regarding shift systems).



RACHEL TROUP
(Call 2005)

For the last four years, Rachel has been instructed to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry as the lead junior in two key areas; the regulatory regime for fire safety and

the testing and certification of construction products. She has a comprehensive knowledge of both fire safety legislation and guidance and of the Building Regulations, with a particular focus on Part B and Approved Document B (Fire Safety) and related policy. Having worked closely with the Inquiry's experts, Rachel also has a detailed understanding of fire engineering, mechanisms for fire spread and fire protection measures. Rachel also undertakes criminal cases involving various aspects of fire safety, including breaches of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order. She provides advice and representation at all stages of the investigation, enforcement and prosecution process, from the earliest inquiries, before any charge, through to appeal.



DAVID SAWTELL
(Call 2005)

David is instructed as a senior junior in numerous cases arising out of fire safety, especially those involving cladding and defects in the building envelope, but also

in respect of other aspects of fire safety. David is instructed as lead counsel for the British Board of Agrément in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. He has a heavy construction practice. He was junior counsel in *Naylor & Ors v (1) Roamquest Ltd (2) Galliard Construction Ltd*, acting for over 120 claimants in respect of six tower blocks in New Capital Quay in Greenwich. He is sole counsel in the large-scale action by the occupiers of Samuel Garside House following the 2019 fire; and is instructed in claims involving design liability of construction professionals and specialist sub-contractors. David also undertakes cases involving property aspects of fire safety, especially those arising out of a landlord and tenant relationship. He has advised in respect of both commercial and residential tenancies in cases involving service charge disputes, repair obligations and nuisance/peaceful enjoyment.



CAMILLA TER HAAR
(Call 2005)

Camilla has a construction and commercial practice with extensive recent experience in fire and fire safety related matters.

Camilla is currently

instructed as Junior Counsel to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry, led by Kate Grange QC and Richard Millett QC. Her focus has particularly related to façade construction, issues relating to fire spread, testing and certification of materials, and ministerial responsibility.



PATRICK HENNESSEY
(Call 2010)

Patrick has considerable experience in disputes involving fire and fire safety. Principally for the last three years he has been instructed as lead junior counsel for

Celotex in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry dealing with all aspects of the most comprehensive Inquiry into a fire and the related construction issues in history. In this role Patrick has been engaged with all aspects of the Inquiry including lay and witness evidence and advising on potential civil and criminal liabilities arising. He also has significant experience in disputes involving fire safety and defective fire safety measure, particularly in relation to PFI / PPP procured infrastructure. He has acted for multiple NHS trusts in relation to claims arising from defective fire safety measures at new build hospitals and am instructed in one of the Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of 2022 in which defective fire protection measures are a central issue (www.39essex.com/a-number-of-members-of-chambers-instructed-in-one-of-the-lawyers-top-20-cases-for-2022/). Patrick has acted as junior and sole counsel in numerous adjudications involving fire safety issues for both employers and contractors and have also acted in international arbitrations in the Middle East and Far East concerning the same issues.



SAMANTHA JONES
(Call 2012)

Samantha has expertise and experience in cases concerning fire and fire safety. For the last four years, Samantha has acted as leading junior counsel on

the Grenfell Tower Inquiry led by Richard Millett QC and Andrew Kinnear QC. She has developed in-depth knowledge and expertise of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Building Regulations, fire risk assessments, emergency planning for disabled persons, active and passive fire protection measures, and the preparedness and emergency planning of Fire Services. She is also instructed on a high profile, high value multi-party personal injury claim in respect of breaches of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order. Samantha has been recognised in Chambers and Partners and the Legal 500 for her work in these areas. She publishes commentary on fire safety. Samantha’s multi-disciplinary practice in health and safety, regulatory, group litigation, inquests and commercial law complements her Fire practise.



SAMUEL BURRETT
(Call 2013)

For the past three years, Sam has been instructed as junior counsel to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry led by Richard Millett QC and Andrew Kinnier QC.

He has particular expertise in the fire safety management requirements under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order, including fire risk assessment, and the obligations of fire and rescue services in responding to emergencies.



RACHEL SULLIVAN
(Call 2015)

Rachel has been instructed as junior counsel to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry since 2017, led by Kate Grange QC and Richard Millet QC. She has worked on the

manufacture and testing of the insulation used on Grenfell Tower. With Rachel Troup, she has also worked closely on the key areas of the regulatory regime for fire safety, and the testing and certification of construction products. She has a comprehensive knowledge of both fire safety legislation and guidance and of the Building Regulations, with a particular focus on Part B and Approved Document B (Fire Safety) and related policy.



DANIEL LAKING
(Call 2015)

Since 2017, Daniel has been instructed as junior counsel on the Grenfell Tower Inquiry where he has specialised in the regulatory framework governing fire

safety. He has a comprehensive knowledge of Approved Document B and the accompanying guidance/routes to compliance. This practice is complemented by his property damage and insurance law expertise. Daniel is well placed to advise on compliance with the regulatory framework, recovery issues in fire policies and subrogated claims arising out of fire damage. Daniel also practices in criminal Health and Safety law, and is therefore able to advise clients on their obligations under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, both prior to and during investigations or prosecutions.



SCARLETT MILLIGAN
(Call 2015)

Scarlett is Junior Counsel to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. She has been instructed by the Inquiry since October 2017 and, as a result, has been exposed to many

of the key issues and investigations raised throughout the life of the Inquiry, including: Fire and Rescue Service preparedness; fire risk assessments under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005; the provisions of the Building Regulations and Approved Document B; and non-compliance of building materials (including cladding and insulation). Her inquest and civil liability expertise also makes her well placed to assist on a range of fire-related matters, including: fire deaths; property claims; insurance disputes; health and safety and other work-related accidents or incidents; nuisance claims. Scarlett has previously acted in and advised upon anti-social behaviour injunctions connected to arson and other fire-related risks.



NICHOLAS HIGGS
(Call 2018)

Nicholas is dual-qualified as a Chartered Civil Engineer and is building a practice focussed on technically-complex construction, engineering and oil and

gas disputes. He was instructed as Counsel to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry with a focus on the evidence relating to the fire resistance of cladding component products installed on the tower. He is presently instructed on *Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust v Lendlease Construction (Europe) & Ors* (one of the Lawyer's top 20 cases for 2022), interacting with the Fire Engineering experts on the significant defects identified at this hospital. He is also sole counsel for a dispute relating to, amongst other matters, the fire resistance of the cladding construction on a student accommodation building in East London.

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