

**CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS 2015 – Chambers and members praised in the 2015 edition –  
read the full extracts here**

**COMMERCIAL**

9 St John Street covers the full range of commercial and traditional chancery work. It is home to nine specialist practitioners who receive instruction throughout the Northern Circuit and beyond, and the team is commended for its breadth of experience and its diligence in dealing with clients and solicitors alike.

**Client service:** "The clerking team, led by Tony Morrissey, are very good and down to earth. They are very accommodating, and more efficient than most. They're very quick at putting things under counsel's nose."

**JUNIORS**

**James Fryer-Spedding**

Maintains a practice of exclusively commercial and chancery litigation cases for private individuals and corporations alike. He has a strong reputation for his work on contested wills, probate and trust litigation, while also advising on questions of insolvency and partnership disputes.

**Expertise:** "He is an extremely sound lawyer. He deeply immerses himself in the cases that he is instructed in, and has a very client-friendly manner." "His skeleton arguments are excellent and well researched. He does his homework. He's not flamboyant in his questions, but he gets a thorough understanding of the case and presents it accordingly. He's very effective in his cross-examination."

**Recent work:** Successfully represented adult children in an inheritance claim.

**Richard Price**

Draws on his previous career as a senior property solicitor to augment a burgeoning chancery practice. Litigation is his strongest area of expertise, especially property and landlord and tenant disputes, and he also manages cases of associated professional negligence and the administration of estates.

**Expertise:** "He's very good on his feet and is very concerned with making the points that will make a difference, rather than grandstanding. He gives good advice and he's meticulous in his preparation and pleadings." "He has a lot of experience in the law. That experience means he's very good at speaking with clients, which other barristers aren't always."

**David Gilchrist**

An experienced junior with a focus on traditional chancery work. He handles questions on contested wills and trusts, and the administration of estates.

**Expertise:** "He's understated when on his feet, but persistent. Which is a good thing. Commercial judges don't like theatrics. They can see the issues and they don't want a barrister who wastes their time." "He is very straight-talking and practical. Clients are very trusting of him because he talks down the line and will point out weaknesses in a case and speak very frankly."

**Recent work:** Instructed by the defendants in a misrepresentation claim concerning the purchase of a house.

## Employment - Northern (Bar)

### THE SET

9 St John Street is not just one of the Northern Circuit's leading employment law sets, but is also celebrated for its strong national presence. It acts on demanding and complex cases for individuals, large corporations and trade unions in both the public and private arenas. It is particularly strong in handling unfair dismissals, discrimination and equal opportunities cases.

**Client service:** The clerks, led by Tony Morrissey, are praised for being flexible and approachable: "The clerks are so friendly it can feel like they are your colleagues; it is a great relationship. They also always make an effort to be flexible on fees."

### SILKS

#### Paul Gilroy QC

Handles high-value and high-profile cases, including wrongful dismissal, professional discipline and profile public inquiries. He is especially acclaimed for his substantial work in the sports and healthcare industries. He works on the largest, most high-profile and market-leading cases.

**Expertise:** "He is an excellent advocate who has the gravitas to deal with complex tribunals." "He is very thorough and focused."

### JUNIORS

#### Stefan Brochwicz-Lewinski

Regularly instructed on particularly complex cases concerning whistle-blowing and unfair dismissals. He frequently works with clients in the retail, construction and healthcare industries.

**Expertise:** "He is excellent - totally prepared at all times and good with clients."

#### Joanne Connolly

Has a broad range of expertise, which includes excellent work in whistle-blowing and retirement cases. She appears regularly in tribunals, High Courts and County Courts.

**Expertise:** "She is an excellent and experienced advocate who is clever and approachable. She also has excellent client skills."

#### Edward Morgan

Receives auspicious feedback for his high level of work in the public sector. He also acts on complex and innovative cases concerning discriminations and restrictive covenants. The majority of his practice is devoted to claimant work.

**Expertise:** "He is acutely intelligent and a brilliant advocate who excels with clients - he is one of the best."

### **Rachel Wedderspoon**

Impresses with her broad expertise, which encompasses all areas of employment law such as unfair dismissal, maternity/paternity rights and equal pay. Her experience as an employment judge aids her practice.

**Expertise:** "She is very responsive, and very good with clients." "She is an extremely personable, thorough barrister who establishes good relationships with clients and has excellent advocacy skills."

### **Joanne Woodward**

A tribunal judge and an exceptional litigator. Her experience of the employment market is considerable, and she is particularly specialised in handling discrimination cases.

**Expertise:** "She is extremely cool under pressure - you will never see her flustered; she is a smart operator who is also smooth." "She is very sharp and very good. She is very quick to get to the point."

**Recent work:** Acted for the University of Manchester against a constructive dismissal and public interest disclosure.

### **Nigel Grundy**

Renowned for his cross-departmental practice, which includes a long-standing presence in employment law. He also works consistently in regulatory proceedings.

**Expertise:** "He is very well thought of and popular with solicitors."

### **Kirsten Barry**

Noted for her broad employment law practice, which emphasises matters such as dismissals, sexual harassment and redundancies.

### **Rebecca Eeley**

Instructed on complex cases in both the public and private sectors in areas such as TUPE, dismissals and redundancies. She is also an acclaimed mediator.

**Expertise:** "She is an excellent lawyer who is always thoroughly prepared and good with clients - an excellent advocate."

### **Brian McCluggage**

Praised for his skills in handling disability discrimination cases. He is also renowned for his work in personal injury and property damage claims.

**Expertise:** "He's a favourite because he gets results."

### **Matthew Snarr**

Noted for his work on complex race discrimination and unfair dismissal claims. He is also known for handling negotiations and settlement agreements.

## Personal Injury - Northern (Bar)

### THE SET

The personal injury group at 9 St John Street is well regarded for providing a broad range of expertise, encompassing both claimant and defendant work in complex cases. Practitioners have considerable experience in brain and spinal injuries and amputations. The set also receives high praise for the organisation and knowledge of its clerks.

**Client service:** "This is a very good clerking team; very accessible and very pleasant to deal with." "They are always prompt."

### SILKS

#### Christopher Kennedy QC

Has significant expertise in conducting catastrophic injury claims on behalf of defendant clients. He has substantial experience of brain injury cases, including psychiatric injury. Sources admire his tough demeanour in the courtroom.

**Expertise:** "He is very good on his feet: calm and considered, and absolutely on the point when cross-examining the witness." "He is excellent in conference and always meticulously well prepared."

**Recent work:** Acted on Wright v O'Hara & MIB, a high-value brain injury case rendered more complex by issues concerning future employment and psychological injury.

#### Nicholas Hinchliffe QC

Highly regarded for working with both claimants and defendants on serious personal injury and industrial disease claims. He is recommended for his excellent advocacy in court.

**Expertise:** "He is a terrific courtroom performer - he cuts to the chase." "He is an outstanding and robust silk."

### JUNIORS

#### Michael Lemmy

Divides his practice between claimant and defendant work, covering a range of complex personal injury claims. He is adept at handling matters involving brain and spinal injury and chronic pain.

**Expertise:** "He is very good on his feet, good on paperwork and good with clients."

**Recent work:** Instructed on behalf of the defendants in Armstrong v Haslam Homes, a case concerning a brain injury resulting from a road traffic accident. The claim was dismissed.

#### Ian Little

Praised for his thorough knowledge of catastrophic injury claims, including industrial disease. He focuses primarily on claimant work, and is known for his impressive manner with clients.

**Expertise:** "He comes across as being really laid-back, but he is as sharp as a tack." "He has a detailed knowledge of high-value accident and industrial disease claims."

### **Brian McCluggage**

Held in high esteem for handling higher-value personal injury claims for defendants, including fatal accidents. He is well versed in dealing with fraudulent claims.

**Expertise:** "He is very analytical, very robust in dealing with negotiations and very good on his feet." "He is very good technically and incredibly experienced in fraud issues."

**Recent work:** Represented the defendant in *Dunleavy v Walsh Construction*, a case concerning a spinal injury.

### **Matthew Snarr**

Handles severe personal injury cases on behalf of both defendants and claimants. He has considerable experience in matters involving brain injuries and fatal accidents.

**Expertise:** "He's very clever, thorough, good on the detail, a good negotiator and very good on his feet." "He is exceptionally well prepared."

**Recent work:** Acted for the defendants in a road traffic accident case involving severe leg injury. Following an initial claim of £2.3 million, the matter settled for £825,000.

## Health & Safety - Northern (Bar)

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### **Christopher Kennedy QC** of 9 St John Street

Has focused his practice on health and safety and personal injury work. He is widely recognised for his work with defendant companies in HSE prosecutions.

**Expertise:** "He is nicely commercial and pragmatic. He doesn't just give you a legal opinion – he also gives you a business opinion."

**Recent work:** Instructed on behalf of Tata in an HSE prosecution relating to alleged health and safety breaches at a Cheshire chemical plant.

### **Matthew Snarr** of 9 St John Street

Splits his practice between personal injury and health and safety areas. He focuses on representing defendant companies in heavyweight health and safety prosecutions.

**Recent work:** Acted on an inquest into the death of a gas maintenance engineer whose death was linked to the use of a diesel-fuelled portable generator.

## INSURANCE FRAUD

### **Christopher Kennedy QC** of 9 St John Street

Has a wide personal injury practice that includes RTA claims. He handles potentially fraudulent claims on behalf of major insurers relating to staged accidents and fraud rings.

**Expertise:** "Very easy to deal with, he goes the extra mile and is extremely approachable." "Calm and considered, he's absolutely on the point when cross-examining witnesses."

**Recent work:** Successfully represented two major insurers in a contested action to recover damages from those behind a fraud ring.

**Matthew Snarr** of 9 St John Street)

Advises and acts in high-value fraud proceedings, particularly those relating to fraud rings. He focuses his practice on acting for defendants.

**Expertise:** "He's a very determined litigator, who is very able, particularly when handling complex areas of law." "Very clever, very thorough and good on the detail."

**Brian McCluggage** of 9 St John Street

Specialises in high-value personal injury litigation. He is often instructed in cases involving allegations of fraud, including those relating to RTAs.

**Expertise:** "He is technically very good and his strategic advice is always spot-on." "He is definitely leading the way, particularly in terms of complex fraud rings: he just gets it."

**Recent work:** Successfully appealed on behalf of defendant insurers in a case relating to a point of principle arising out of the RTA Portal system.

## **PROFFESIONAL DISCIPLINE**

**Nigel Grundy** of 9 St John Street

Respected for his work on behalf of the GMC in disciplinary proceedings against medical practitioners. His practice also covers employment and personal injury cases.

## **FAMILY**

**Emma Greenhalgh** of 9 St John Street

Continues to develop a strong reputation as a talented advocate in public law child proceedings. She wins praise for her work ethic and client care.

**Expertise:** "She is exceptionally well prepared and insightful, with good client care skills and an ability to argue her points effectively." "She is a rising star in that set of chambers."

**Rachael Heppenstall** of 9 St John Street

A care and adoption specialist, she focuses on cases involving non-accidental injury and abuse. She acts for local authorities, children and vulnerable adults, including those with significant learning difficulties.

**Expertise:** "She is thoroughly reliable and very sympathetic in care proceedings. Very down to earth."

## **COMMERCIAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

**James Fryer-Spedding** of 9 St John Street

Chancery and commercial specialist who is noted for the breadth of his expertise. He is frequently instructed in property, insolvency and contractual disputes.

**Expertise:** "He's very highly regarded, and highly technical in his approach." "He offers value for

money, is very good with clients, and is able to explain and offer practical solutions which are well received by both clients and solicitors."

**David Gilchrist** of 9 St John Street

Has a broad commercial practice which covers property, construction, franchise and insolvency disputes.

**Expertise:** "He has an immense knowledge of the law."

**Recent work:** Acted for the claimant in the Technology and Construction Court, in a claim brought against Mercury Forecourts concerning alleged nuisance on the grounds of contamination of land caused by the neighbouring petrol station.