

Hugh Evans

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He is very efficient, provides commercial advice and quickly gets to the real issues.

- Legal 500

Hugh Evans's practice centres on professional liability, with particular emphasis on claims against lawyers and accountants, commercial litigation, particularly insurance and fraud claims, and costs.

His litigation philosophy is: (1) to give the clients clear and practical advice on how best to resolve their legal difficulties; (2) to succeed at trial by the use of ingenuity, tactical thinking, detailed preparation, and experience, particularly in cross examination; and (3) to be a friendly, accessible and helpful member of any legal team.

Hugh has been listed as a leading professional negligence junior by the directories in the first tier or band for many years. The 2021 guides say: "*He's got encyclopedic knowledge and is good on his feet.*", "*A real heavyweight junior. He is very easy to deal with and offers very sensible and pragmatic advice.*" (Chambers), and "*Hugh is a living encyclopedia when it comes to authorities on professional negligence. He is one of those few barristers who even with their wealth of knowledge is always willing to listen and consider the ideas of others and finesse them in their own measured manner.*" (Legal 500). Hugh has been described as "*fantastically clever*" with a "*logical approach and likeable manner*", that he is "*bright, commercial and efficient*", "*witty and academically sound*", and even that he "*makes the litigation process as painless as possible.*" He has been "*praised for his ability to clarify the most complex legal issues, and sources deem him 'uncannily accurate' in his advice*" It is said that he is "*...extremely bright and very good tactically*" , "*...excellent and very persuasive on his feet.*" "*Hugh demonstrates wit and energy, and is tremendously likeable too*", and "*Hugh knows professional negligence inside-out, and is great to work with*", it is alleged that "*He is phenomenally bright and gives very practical advice,*" that "*he picks the right points and has very good judgement.*" "*He is very bright, has a pleasant manner with clients and is a good negotiator*" and , "*he really gets to grips with the most complex of issues*" .

Hugh writes extensively on professional liability. He is , and has been since 1992, the editor of the chapters on solicitors and barristers in *Jackson and Powell on Professional Liability* (Sweet & Maxwell 8th edition 2017), and is a general editor of the book .He is the author of *Lawyers' Liabilities* Sweet & Maxwell 2002 (2nd edn), and nearly thirty articles in a variety of academic journals, particularly Professional Negligence.

Hugh's trial work has taken him to all divisions of the High Court, particularly the Chancery Division, as well as the County Court, and many arbitrations. He also has extensive experience of ADR, and has taken part as advocate in over fifty mediations. He is very comfortable with a wide variety of complex technical evidence, from medical to engineering, including statistical analysis.

Privacy Policy

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Areas of Expertise

Construction & Engineering

Hugh's construction work centres on claims against architects, engineers and surveyors. He is comfortable with technical, scientific and mathematical concepts. He has fought a number of architects' negligence cases at trial, mostly relating to allegations of negligent design, and negligent supervision and administration of works. Engineer's cases include an arbitration against the builders of a garden centre which has spawned continuing claims against the foul and surface water drainage engineers, a number of claims in relation to leaking basements and roofs, and a £17m claim against structural engineers in relation to the Regent Quarter development at King's Cross. Surveyors' work includes claims of negligent valuations and surveys, mostly by lenders, and maladministration of building contracts. Recent cases include a claim against architects in relation to the conversion of a large HMO property in London.

Qualifications & Memberships

MA (Cantab). BCL (Oxon).

Insights

Valuing Bungled Litigation, *Edwards V Hugh James Ford Simey*

18 June 2018

Edwards v Hugh James Ford Simey has largely reestablished orthodox principles of how to value bungled litigation, but it may be difficult to apply the exception to those principles which it has derived from the authorities.

Mediations as an advocate

20 April 2018

Mediations are commonly undertaken by solicitors, without assistance from Counsel. Many barristers have limited experience of mediation, or certainly used to, and many barristers are temperamentally unsuited to it, or so experienced mediators tell me. There is a tendency to be far too aggressive and confrontational, which is often entirely appropriate in cross examination, but rarely so in mediations. Solicitors are often much better adapted temperamentally to mediations, where an appearance of gentle friendliness and persuasion is often very helpful.

Costs Budgeting

4 April 2018

Costs budgeting is plainly important, as I will amplify later, but it is rarely thought to be interesting. However, there is now a fair body of law and practice, and there is some craft in producing, developing and attacking budgets. I will start at the beginning. Costs budgeting started, after some pilot schemes, in April 2013, and the rules have been revised since. They are now a familiar part of the litigation landscape. However, problems and issues remain, many of which are inherent in cost budgeting.

Jackson & Powell on Professional Liability

1 December 2017

Hugh is the editor of the chapters on solicitors and barristers in the 7th ed.

Lawyers' Liabilities

4 April 2002