

Mark Cannon QC

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His great tactical and commercial acumen keeps him ahead of the competition.

- Legal 500

Head Of Chambers

Described in the directories as "superb", "extremely solid and punchy" and "technically excellent", Mark Cannon QC is a well-established commercial silk, whose practice is mainly focused on the areas of professional liability in a commercial context, insurance and reinsurance and construction.

He is an experienced and highly effective advocate in trials, arbitrations and appellate courts and has appeared in numerous leading and reported cases. Much of his work involves the preparation of cases for trial. He also has a strong advisory practice and accepts appointments as an arbitrator.

His qualities are consistently recognised in the directories:

Ability: "immense intellect and awe-inspiring knowledge of the law", "off-the-charts clever" "not only charming and friendly, he has an almost encyclopaedic knowledge of complex areas of law which he applies in a way that is easy to understand", "what he doesn't know about professional negligence is not worth knowing", "second to none in terms of intellectual ability", "a velvet-gloved grasp of the law", "scarily clever", "brilliant at assessing the law", "very, very clever and is afforded great respect", "a very clear-thinking lawyer", "a very impressive intellect", "bright, erudite and incisive", "off-the-charts clever".

Acumen: "very good at recognising the commercial parameters within which his clients operate", "very good judgment in all that he undertakes", "a great ideas man", "gives very commercial advice backed up with a very strong commercial understanding of the law", "spot-on analysis", "has excellent judgement", "provides clear, reliable advice", "phenomenally clever, with practical and commercial sense as well", "his opinion is well respected by his peers and holds weight in any negotiation".

Advocacy: "an excellent advocate", "very attractive advocacy style", "impressive in court and possessed of a very agile brain", "highly intelligent, good on paper and on his feet", "his manner of expression as an advocate is very impressive", "a real trooper who holds his corner in court well".

Application: "responsive, hands-on and hard-working", "prepared to roll up his sleeves and get into the facts and documents", "always reliable and responsive", "very user-friendly", "very hard-working and serious lawyer".

Mark likes to think that he lives up to these standards.

Over the last 30 years Mark has been instructed in a number of long-running, large cases, including group litigation. He is used to



working as part of a team of lawyers and experts in substantial litigation. He relishes the challenge of working with others to master complex facts and difficult points of law, to make the right tactical decisions, to put forward the best possible case and to achieve the best possible result at the right time. Mark welcomes the expertise, insight and contribution that all members of a team can provide.

Mark is co-author of Cannon & McGurk on Professional Indemnity Insurance (OUP, 2010; 2nd edition 2016) and has been an editor of Jackson & Powell on Professional Liability (Sweet & Maxwell; 2017; 8th edition) since the 3rd edition (1992).

He is a former chairman of the Professional Negligence Bar Association and is also a member of the Chancery Bar Association, COMBAR, London Common Law & Commercial Bar Association, Teubar and the Western Circuit. Mark is also a member of the Bar of Northern Ireland.

Privacy Policy

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Areas of Expertise

Product Liability

Mark's long-standing experience of product liability and group litigation goes back to his involvement in the myodil litigation in the early 1990s when he was one of the team of counsel acting for the claimants (myodil was used to help diagnose problems in the lower spine and was alleged to have exacerbated or caused back pain and consequent disability by damaging the arachnoid which contains the nerves passing down the spinal column). He has been involved in a range of product liability claims and related insurance issues. Mark's experience of group litigation includes the fairly recent "right to buy" litigation by several thousand claimants against a number of firms of solicitors (where, in the event, a Practice Direction was procured rather than a GLO: this involved careful consideration of the way GLOs work). As with all areas of his work Mark enjoys getting to grips with the underlying technical issues and working as a team with other lawyers and experts.

Qualifications & Memberships

B.A. (Oxon) (First Class) in Modern History, Lincoln College, Oxford, 1983. Part 1B of the Law Tripos (First Class), Robinson College, Cambridge, 1984. Called to the Bar of Northern Ireland: 2014.

Insights

Nesbit Law Group LLP v Acasta European Insurance Company Limited [2018] EWCA Civ 268

1 March 2018

In Nesbit Law Group LLP the Court of Appeal had to determine the proper construction of an exclusion clause in a series of Fidelity Guarantee Indemnity policies and whether the insurer should be permitted to amend its defence (the application having been made weeks before the hearing of the appeal) to allege various breaches of a loan agreement by insured which breaches were necessary for the insured to be caught by the exclusion clause.

Editor of Jackson & Powell on Professional Liability (8th Edition)

1 December 2016

Cannon & McGurk on Professional Indemnity Insurance

18 February 2016

Author