

Patrick Lawrence QC

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A towering courtroom presence ... superb in heavyweight cases, known for razor-sharp mind and ability to take a witness apart
- Chambers & Partners

Former Chambers & Partners Professional Negligence QC of the year, Patrick has appeared in many leading cases at appellate level.

If you believe the Directories: *“a wonderful advocate”, “extremely bright and very personable – a formidable opponent”* [Chambers]. *“He is fantastic on his feet and I have the utmost confidence in him.”* *“One of, if not THE best for professional negligence claims. He is calm, tactical and holds his nerve.”* [Chambers] *“A Rolls-Royce silk ... able and approachable in equal measure, one of the most in demand professional indemnity barristers ... a towering courtroom presence .. superb in complex heavyweight cases, known for razor-sharp mind and ability to take a witness apart.”* [Chambers] *“very charismatic and good with clients; he is able and approachable in equal measure”* [Chambers]. *“He is a brilliant lawyer with a real appreciation of the ‘human’ side of cases”, “a superb advocate, who always manages to engage the court and present arguments in a compelling fashion”, “highly persuasive” and “can make complicated arguments understandable”* [Legal 500]. *“He has a fantastic manner and outstanding judgement”, “Inspires great confidence and tackles problem with the minimum of stress”* [Legal 500].

He practises principally in the commercial and company law sectors. This work fits well with his expertise in auditors’ negligence and his involvement in claims against pensions advisers, tax advisers, and other financial services professionals. He is numerate (as barristers go). He is retained in cases where effective cross-examination is considered critical. Many of his cases involve allegations of impropriety in the commercial world, and he is prepared to read closely large amounts of material in order to find out what really went on, and then – if necessary – to go to court to prove it. He has acted in many leading cases involving the development of equitable rules concerning fiduciary obligations in a commercial context, and the interplay between trust, contract, and fraud.

There is an obvious connection between his professional liability work and disciplinary proceedings involving professionals, and he has acted for complainants and respondents in relation to conduct issues concerning solicitors, barristers, accountants and surveyors. He has conducted a number of substantial hearings involving allegations of misconduct against auditors on behalf of the bodies responsible for investigating complaints against auditors in cases raising issues of public interest.

Patrick operates also in the field of public law, specialising in A1P1 cases. He appeared in the Supreme Court in *UKIP v Electoral Commission*, and in Court of Appeal in the leading A1P1 solar panel claims against DECC; *Breyer v DECC*.

He is a co-author of the chapter on solicitors’ negligence in the Lloyds looseleaf on Professional Negligence.

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Areas of Expertise

Commercial

Patrick's practice ranges widely over all forms of commercial law. He has extensive experience of all forms of arbitral process and is very familiar with the ICC Rules of Arbitration. He has acted in many construction cases, and has advanced so-called 'black hole' arguments as to no loss on both sides of that debate. He first argued issues of that type in the construction field, where the 19th century jurisprudence (the Albazero case, etc) has been developed in cases such as *Alfred McAlpine v Panatown*. He acted for the successful appellant in *Titan v Colliers*, a securitisation case involving 'black hole / no loss' arguments arising out of a complex web of assignments and trust arrangements. The Court of Appeal judgment contains the most recent appellate guidance in this area of the law. He is currently engaged in an appeal to the Privy Council from the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal which will require an extensive review of jurisdiction authorities, and may involve critical reconsideration of the law relating to acceptance of jurisdiction.

Patrick has appeared in a wide range of commercial contract cases, both in court and before arbitrators. He has extensive experience of the obtaining of interim remedies in the commercial context: eg. *Orb ARL v Fiddler* [2016] EWHC 361, in which Popplewell J, set aside freezing and search orders on the ground of non-disclosure.

Cases

- D&G; Cars Ltd v Essex Police Authority
- D&G; Cars Ltd v Essex Police Authority
- Breyer Group Plc v Department of Energy and Climate Change
- Pennyfeathers Limited v Pennyfeathers Property Co Ltd
- Petrocapital Resources PLC v Morrison & Foerster
- THOMAS COOK TOUR OPERATIONS LTD (FORMERLY SUNWORLD LTD) v HOTEL KAYA
- Rubicon Computer Systems Ltd v. United Paints Ltd
- Brill v. Penn
- Orb ARL v Fiddler

Qualifications & Memberships



Christ Church, Oxford, 1st class degree in P.P.E