



NEW SQUARE

Patrick Lawrence QC

Call: 1985

Silk: 2002

+442078222000

p.lawrence@4newsquare.com

Clerk: Andrew Call

a.call@4newsquare.com

+442078222038

+447788443600



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.

Privacy Policy



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Areas of Expertise

Disciplinary and Regulatory

“An approachable and eloquent silk.” – Legal 500, 2020

Ranked as a Leading Silk, Patrick is described as **“a class act who is very user-friendly”, “very good at carrying vulnerable clients through a difficult process. He explains regulatory requirements and how best to deal with issues”, “he’s a wonderful advocate and a very bright chap”, “very bright”** with a **“huge ability to take in massive amounts of detail in very complex cases and make them straightforward”**, **“his charming and rather urbane style always goes down well”**.

He has appeared for solicitors and surveyors in front of their professional disciplinary bodies on numerous occasions. In recent years he has been retained in disciplinary matters involving accountants/auditors, solicitors, barristers, a handwriting expert, a psychologist and a county councillor. He has advised on judicial review remedies in this field and has been concerned in judicial review applications against the Bar Council and the ICAEW. He is very familiar with issues arising where a complainant has delayed unreasonably before lodging the complaint. He has been frequently retained by the JDS/ AADB/FRC (the bodies charged with investigating public interest allegations against the auditors of public companies) to conduct substantial complaints against auditors and accountants in business.

He has acted in judicial review proceedings against the ICAEW concerning a complaint against a chartered accountant (*Crookenden v ICAEW*); and in the first matter to go before the Disciplinary Committee of the Insolvency Practitioners Association for a number of years.

In 2016-17 he was heavily engaged in *Williams v SRA*, a SDT case which went to the Divisional Court, a leading case on issues relating to proof of dishonesty; the distinction between dishonesty and want of integrity; and the consequences of an omission to cross-examine.

In 2018-19 he acted in various matters before the SDT involving allegations of dishonesty and want of integrity.

He is currently retained in a number of cases concerning the position of professionals who provide expert and other evidence while retained on some form of contingent fee agreement.

Cases

- R (on appn of *Crookenden*) v ICAEW
- *Williams v SRA*

Qualifications & Memberships

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