

Paul Parker

Call: 1986

+442078222000 p.parker@4newsquare.com

Clerk: Alex Dolby

a.dolby@4newsquare.com

+442078222036 +447912495151



He's a wonderful advocate: tenacious, brave and prepared to roll his sleeves up. You feel very confident in his services.

- Chambers & Partners

Paul Parker is a specialist in professional liability claims involving accountants, financial services professionals, lawyers, insurance brokers and construction professionals.

He advises on professional regulatory matters and has substantial experience of appearing before disciplinary tribunals and in the higher courts on appeal. He does a variety of general commercial and chancery commercial work, with particular emphasis on insurance law.

Paul relishes the challenge of advocacy and is known for his tenacity, working hard to attain the trial barrister's ideal: complete mastery of a brief, control of the evidence and the ear of the court. He revels in difficult cases where there are obstinate witnesses or dogmatic experts to be cracked.

In a climate in which mediation has become the dispute resolution method of first choice, Paul has developed a considerable level of experience, guiding lay and professional clients through the mediation process, drafting mediation position papers, devising negotiation strategies and handling mediation advocacy.

"Excellent at pleadings", "very diligent, very thorough and offers detailed forensic analysis. He is very good at intricate legal arguments" (Chambers & Partners) and "consistently well thought of," Paul Parker is recognised as a leading recommended junior in the fields of professional negligence and professional discipline. Legal Week has reported Paul to be "fantastic with clients and you get excellent advocacy every time". And "great fun to work with" as well! The Legal 500 has time and again over recent years listed him amongst its highly regarded juniors and Paul has also been selected for inclusion in the Legal Business publication Legal Experts in the field of professional indemnity litigation every year since 2001.

Privacy Policy

Click here for a [Privacy Policy](#) for Paul Parker.

Areas of Expertise

Corporate and Commercial

Paul's practice involves a wide range of spheres of corporate and commercial activity, including:

Sale and Supply of Goods and Services



Current and recent cases include:

- advising in a catering supplies dispute between contractors and an education authority
- acting in connection with a defects claim relating to a consignment of reconnaissance helicopters
- representing a further education college in a large claim by an educational services provider
- advising on distribution agreements concerning the DSS estate
- advising on breaches of agreements in the gas and electricity supply industries
- acting for the suppliers of window fittings and furniture in a claim brought by a local authority concerning the refurbishment of council flats and houses
- advising on taxi franchises at a UK airport
- acting in product liability dispute concerning complex programmable industrial machinery
- acting in a fine art theft case

Confidentiality

A considerable proportion of Paul's lawyers' liability, disciplinary and regulatory work relates to issues concerning actual or potential conflict of interest and other aspects of confidentiality. He has been actively involved in a series of cases concerning the disclosure of solicitors' files to lenders.

Paul successfully barred a firm of solicitors from acting in construction litigation in *Re a firm of Solicitors* [1999] PNLR 950 (conflicts of interest and "chinese walls").

Computer Contracts & Information Technology

Paul has acted in complex and lengthy computer software disputes tried in the London and provincial TCC. Issues have included:

- the extent to which the customer had provided an adequate specification for the provision of bespoke and modified standard software
- the customer's competence to operate the system
- the nature and quality of training provided by the supplier
- the distinction between bugs and defects
- the applicability of the supplier's exclusion clauses
- the quantification of the customer's loss of profits claim

Cases include *BIT Group Ltd v. Housing Units Ltd* (1999) TCC unreported, and others settled on confidential terms.

Paul is the author of the chapter on IT Professionals in Jackson & Powell: Professional Liability Precedents.

Cases

- BIT Group Ltd v. Housing Units Ltd

Qualifications & Memberships

Paul is a former editor of the *PNBA Professional Negligence Law Review* and has edited and written chapters on solicitors, appeals and IT professionals for *Jackson & Powell: Professional Liability Precedents* (Sweet & Maxwell, looseleaf).

He is a member of COMBAR, LCLCBA, the ChBA and the PNBA (having served on its executive committee for many years). He is an ex-chairman of governors at a school in Oxfordshire, and is the current vice-chairman of an Oxford charitable trust.

Education

M.A. (Cantab.)



Languages

Serbian and French.

Insights

The liability of a litigation friend for costs: Glover v Barker in the Court of Appeal

6 October 2020

On 21 August 2020 the Court of Appeal handed down judgment in *Glover v Barker* [2020] EWCA Civ 1112, overturning the decision of Morgan J. in *Barker v Confiànce Ltd* [2019] EWHC 1401 (Ch) and giving comprehensive guidance as to the circumstances in which a defendant's litigation friend might be liable for the costs of a successful claimant.

The new Accounts Rules – what can you do?

28 October 2019

On 25 November 2019 the SRA Accounts Rules 2011 will cease to have effect, and will be replaced by new accounts rules. In one quarter-stroke of the draftsman's pen, 52 rules covering 50 pages of single-spaced typescript on pages of A4 will be replaced by 13 rules on 10 pages. The SRA has trumpeted loudly that the rules have been simplified and that they provide greater flexibility. Have they? Do they?

SRA v James: When “I was driven to it” is no defence

13 November 2018

Today a likely fatal blow to well-being in the workplace was struck by the Administrative Court (Flaux LJ, Jeremy Baker J) in *SRA v James and others* [2018] EWHC 3058 (Admin). It is well-known that if a solicitor is guilty of dishonesty in and about the work he or she does, they will be struck off unless they can show “exceptional circumstances”. For a while it was thought that extreme and intolerable work pressure giving rise to mental health issues, in turn giving rise to an act or acts of dishonesty, might suffice.

What does it mean to be lacking in integrity?

14 March 2018

Paul Parker of 4 New Square explores the dishonesty/integrity debate as the Court of Appeal has now uttered it's last words on the topic, which has kept regulatory and disciplinary lawyers busy for well over a decade.

Jackson & Powell: Professional Liability Precedents

28 September 2010

Paul edited and wrote chapters on solicitors, appeals and IT professionals in this publication.

PNBA Professional Negligence Law Review

1 November 2005

Paul is the former editor of this newsletter.