

Paul Parker

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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

Construction & Engineering

Paul's construction practice currently focuses to the greater extent on the liability of construction professionals. This and his reported cases include:

- acting for the defendant quantity surveyors in *Dhamija v. McBains Cooper* [2010] EWHC 2396 (TCC), a leading case deciding that the scope of the quantity surveyor's duty to make interim valuations does not extend to having to bring defective works to the contract administrator's attention
- advising on potential claims against the professional team in connection with the design and construction of a vocational ballet school
- acting for the employer in a substantial claim against engineers regarding the foundation design of a major London hotel
- defending engineers in connection with the foundation and floor slab design of a warehouse complex in the North East
- *Cheal v. Hale Allen* (1997) 59 Con LR 156: use of expert evidence in an engineers' negligence action
- *Wilson v. Le Fevre Wood & Royle* [1996] PNLR 107: date of knowledge (Limitation Act 1980 s.14A) in an architects' liability action
- led by Anthony Thornton QC (now HHJ Thornton QC) in a long geotechnical engineers' negligence action in 1994

Paul also has lengthy experience of a considerable range of construction disputes, litigating and arbitrating for and against employers, contractors and sub-contractors.

Past cases include:

- involvement in actions concerning property developers such as Charles Church and Barratt Homes; past clients include Higgs & Hill/HBG Construction
- representing the design engineers in a substantial action concerning a pipeline in south Atlantic
- acting in contaminated land claims and m&e engineers' negligence actions
- acting for the employer in an £8 million claim against an architect and the contractor concerning the refurbishment of office and residential space in central London
- defending the suppliers of window fittings and furniture in a claim brought by a local authority concerning the refurbishment of council flats and houses
- numerous claims concerning residential refurbishments, extensions and rebuilds

Cases

- **Dhamija v. McBains Cooper**
Acting for the defendant quantity surveyors in this leading case deciding that the scope of the quantity surveyor's duty to make interim valuations does not extend to having to bring defective works to the contract administrator's attention
- **Cheal v. Hale Allen**
Use of expert evidence in an engineers' negligence action
- **Wilson v. Le Fevre Wood & Royle**
Date of knowledge (Limitation Act 1980 s.14A) in an architects' liability action

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.



NEW SQUARE

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 its 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.