

OUR PEOPLE

## Isabel Barter

CALL 2010

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

“Isabel is an absolute star. Her attention to detail and grasp of the issues is exemplary, and she is calm and reassuring with clients”



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Isabel practises in Professional Negligence, Product Liability, Property Damage, Group Litigation work, Commercial Fraud, Commercial Dispute Resolution and Private International Law.

She frequently appears as sole Counsel against KCs. In addition, she has been lead junior in complex cases for several years, is adept at dealing with technical expert evidence, and has a real aptitude for absorbing large amounts of information quickly.

She was nominated for Professional Negligence Junior of the Year at the Chambers Bar Awards 2022, and for Group Litigation and Consumer Junior of the Year at the Legal 500 Awards 2022 and 2023. She is recommended in the directories as a leading practitioner for Professional Negligence, Product Liability, Property Damage and Group Litigation work.

Isabel is Associate Editor of, as well as expert contributor to, Mark Simpson, Professional Negligence and Liability (Informa, updated twice yearly), and she is an expert contributor on product liability to Howard Palmer KC, Property Damage (Bloomsbury, 2023). She is also joint General Editor of Bloomsbury's 'Journal of Professional Negligence', published quarterly, and a member of the PNBA Executive Committee.

Prior to coming to the bar, Isabel worked in the charitable sector. She graduated from Cambridge with a BA (Hons) in History. She was also a Major Scholar of the Inner Temple.

## Privacy Policy

Click here for a [Privacy Policy](#) for Isabel Barter.

## Expertise

## Professional Negligence

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Isabel was nominated for Professional Negligence Junior of the Year at the Chambers Bar Awards 2022.

She has been recommended for several years in both legal directories for professional negligence, described as “immensely bright, tenacious and easy to work with” in Legal 500, where she is ranked as Band 1, and as “a real rising star. I would want her involved in any professional negligence case” in Chambers & Partners UK Bar Guide.

Isabel’s professional negligence practice encompasses a wide range of professions, including accountants, auditors, receivers, solicitors, barristers and construction professionals. She acts for both claimants and defendants and is frequently instructed as sole Counsel.

She is Associate Editor of, as well as expert contributor to, Mark Simpson, Professional Negligence and Liability (Informa, updated twice yearly). She is also joint General Editor of Bloomsbury’s ‘Journal of Professional Negligence’, published quarterly, and a member of the PNBA Executive Committee.

Isabel is currently acting for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and its Tenant Management Organisation (led by David Turner KC and Clare Dixon KC) in relation to recovery actions arising out of the Grenfell Tower fire.

### Notable Professional Negligence cases

- A multi-million pound claim against auditors (led by [Jamie Smith KC](#));
- *CNM Estates (Tolworth Tower) Ltd v Carvill-Biggs* [2023] EWCA Civ 480 (CA) – acting for Law of Property Act receivers in a £16m claim for damages (led by Mark Simpson KC);
- *Page v Kidd* [2021] 11 WLUK 294 – an appeal concerning s.14B of the Limitation Act 1980; (sole Counsel against a KC);
- *Instant Access Properties Ltd (In Liquidation) v Rosser & others* [2018] EWHC 756 (Ch), [2018] B.C.C. 751 – acting for a tax advisory firm in a £35m claim alleging dishonest assistance and fraudulent trading;
- A claim in deceit and negligence against an approved inspector for economic loss;
- A multi-million pound claim against a barrister; and
- *Mehjoo v Harben Barker* [2014] EWCA Civ 358, [2014] P.N.L.R. 24 concerning accountants’ negligence.

## Product Liability

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Isabel was shortlisted for Group Litigation & Consumer Junior of the Year at the 2022 and 2023 Legal 500 Bar Awards.

She is recommended in the Directories as “*the best product liability junior out there for complex claims. She is phenomenally bright and hard-working, and a delight to deal with. Great strategic mind*” (Legal 500) and as having a “*a first-class intellect combined with... a thorough understanding of technical evidence*” (Chambers UK Bar).

Her product liability practice covers disputes arising from medical devices and pharmaceuticals, construction products, industrial and IT equipment, automotive products, white goods and other household goods. Isabel also deals with claims with a cross-border element.

Isabel is currently acting for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and its Tenant Management Organisation (led by [David Turner KC](#) and [Clare Dixon KC](#)) in relation to recovery actions arising out of the Grenfell Tower fire.

Isabel has also provided evidence of product liability law for the Polish courts.

She is an expert contributor on product liability to Howard Palmer KC, Property Damage (Bloomsbury, 2023).

Click here for a link to Isabel and others at 2TG’s [Practical Guide to the Consumer Protection Act 1987](#)

## Notable Product Liability Cases

- Acting in relation to a supplier of allegedly defective product said to have caused a multi-million pound fire manufactured in Italy (led by Neil Moody KC);
- Acting for Boston Scientific in relation to multiple claims concerning vaginal mesh;
- Acting for a well-known car manufacturer in relation to products which might be implicated in a recall;
- *Wilson v Beko Plc* [2019] EWHC 3362 (QB), [2019] 12 WLUK 105 – concerning safety regulations/s.41 of the Consumer Protection Act 1987; and
- *Allen v Depuy* [2015] EWHC 926 (QB), [2015] 2 WLR 442 – concerning the applicable law and territorial scope of the Consumer Protection Act 1987.

## Property Damage

Isabel's property damage work frequently involves damage to domestic and commercial premises caused by fire, floods and explosions, in addition to cases involving nuisance and ignis suus.

She has been recognised in Chambers UK as being a “*very thorough and technically able barrister*” who “*gets to grips with the facts and the legal issues quickly, and provides clear and concise advice*”.

Isabel is currently acting for Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the Tenant Management Organisation (led by **David Turner KC** and **Clare Dixon KC**) in relation to recovery actions arising out of the Grenfell Tower fire, and in relation to a multi-million pound fire led by Neil Moody KC.

Other notable cases include *Wilson v Beko Plc* [2019] EWHC 3362 (QB), [2019] 12 WLUK 105 concerning whether a consumer could make a claim for property damage under safety regulations/s.41 of the Consumer Protection Act 1987.

Isabel is a contributor to Howard Palmer KC, *Property Damage* (Bloomsbury, 2023), an Associate Editor of, and also expert contributor to Mark Simpson, *Professional Negligence and Liability* (Informa, updated twice yearly). She is also joint General Editor of Bloomsbury's 'Journal of Professional Negligence', published quarterly.

## Group Litigation

Isabel was shortlisted for Group Litigation & Consumer Junior of the Year at the 2022 and 2023 Legal 500 Bar Awards. She was recognised recently in Legal 500 as “*very clever and good to work with, highly organised and an effective project manager of a large group action*”.

She is an experienced lead junior and is adept at managing teams of juniors in complex cases.

She has been involved in significant mass tort claims such as recovery actions arising out of the Grenfell Tower, and in several product liability claims including vaginal mesh claims (where she frequently appears as sole Counsel for a manufacturer), intraocular lenses, hips (*Allen v Depuy* [2015] EWHC 926 (QB), [2015] 2 WLR 442) and beauty products. In addition, Isabel has experience of group litigation claims with a private international element, including involving parent companies in the UK in relation to actions of its foreign subsidiaries.

## Commercial Fraud

Isabel has an extensive commercial fraud expertise. This often stems from her professional negligence practice (in particular receivers, tax advisers, and approved inspectors) and from her product liability practice (where dangerous products are alleged to have been placed and/or kept on the market knowingly).

## Notable Commercial Fraud cases

- Claims in deceit and economic torts in relation to product liability;
- Acting for receivers in £16m claim for wilful misconduct;
- A multi-million pound claim in deceit against an approved inspector (sole Counsel);
- Acting for tax advisers in relation to a £35m claim by their former client for, inter alia, advising its client to participate in a tax fraud, dishonest assistance, conspiracy, fraudulent trading and fraudulent breaches of fiduciary duty (led by Mark Simpson KC);
- Acting for defendants in a multi-million pound claim who were accused of fraudulently creating documents to evidence terms of an oral contract relating to a development site (led by Mark Simpson KC).

## Commercial Litigation

Isabel has a well-developed Commercial Dispute Resolution practice. She has particular expertise in construction, manufacturing and professional services claims. This includes claims arising out of the supply of complex products (including IT products) and construction products, contractual 'chains' and profit-sharing agreements. She has a special interest in questions of employers' vicarious liability having appeared in *Mohamud v WM Morrison Supermarkets plc* [2016] UKSC 11, [2016] AC 677 in the Supreme Court.

## Private International Law

Isabel's private international practice crosses her product liability, property damage, commercial dispute resolution and professional negligence expertise.

Recent cases include: questions of jurisdiction, applicable law and service out in relation to products imported into (and out of) the UK including *Regent Superbowl & Others v Slush Puppie* acting (led by Neil Moody KC) for a defendant supplier of an iced drink machine said to be the cause of a multi-million pound fire (ongoing); the territorial scope of the Consumer Protection Act 1987 (*Allen v Depuy* [2019] EWHC 3362 (QB), [2019] 12 WLUK 105); complex issues arising out of large multinational contracts, and claims brought against holding companies for, inter alia, the actions of their foreign subsidiary.

## Notable Private International Law Cases

- **Grenfell Tower recovery** – Acting (led by David Turner KC and Clare Dixon KC, together with Tom Fairclough and Conor Ewing) for Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and its Tenant Management Organisation in respect of recovery claims arising out of the Grenfell Tower (ongoing).
- **Vaginal mesh claims** – Acting for leading manufacturer of mesh in relation to multiple claims (ongoing, frequently appearing as sole Counsel against KCs).
- **Regent Superbowl & Others v Slush Puppie** – Acting (led by Neil Moody KC, together with Ben Phelps) for defendant supplier of an iced drink machine said to be the cause of a multi-million pound fire (ongoing).
- **Page v Kidd & Spoor Harper Solicitors** [2021] 11 WLUK 294 – A professional negligence claim concerning s.15B of the Limitation Act 1980 (the 15-year longstop), acting for the defendant solicitors in a strike out which was unsuccessfully appealed (sole Counsel, on appeal against a KC).
- **CNM Estates (Tolworth Tower) Ltd v Simon Peter Carvill-Biggs and Freddy Khalastchi** [2023] EWCA Civ 480 (CA) – A £16.6m claim brought against Law of Property Act receivers alleging negligence in the sale of a development site (led by Mark Simpson KC).
- **Wilson v Beko** [2019] EWHC 3362 (QB), [2019] 12 WLUK 105 – A seminal case concerning whether a consumer could bring a claim under s.41 of the Consumer Protection Act 1987 (led by Charles Dougherty KC). The appeal was discontinued.

## Education

- BVC (Outstanding), BPP Law School
  - GDL (Distinction), City Law School
  - BA (Hons) History, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge University
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