

OUR PEOPLE

Richard Liddell KC

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CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

"A superb advocate. Good at cutting through the noise to get at the points that matter."



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Richard Liddell KC's practice primarily covers four areas: commercial disputes (including insurance coverage and international arbitration), professional liability claims, construction and engineering litigation and sports law.

Many of his cases have an international dimension and he is frequently instructed in commercial and construction disputes in the Middle East before the DIFC Courts (where he has rights of audience) and in arbitration claims.

In addition to acting as an advocate and adviser, Rick is also regularly appointed as Arbitrator.

Rick took silk in 2020 and is recommended as a leading practitioner in the legal Directories for Professional Negligence, Construction and Sports law. Quotes from the Directories include:

"A superb advocate"; "We received amazing feedback for him from our clients"; "A team player and is excellent on his feet"; "Intelligent and meticulous"; "Very bright"; "Charismatic"; "Very personable"; "Good under pressure"; "He is very well liked by clients, works hard and has a very amicable manner"; "Extremely user-friendly and proactive"; "Solicitors note his collaborative approach and the ease with which he integrates into a team. His expertise spans the entire range of professional indemnity work"; "He manages difficult clients well"; "Very good on dispute strategy and tactics" and "Good at cutting through the noise to get at the points that matter." [Professional Negligence]

"Extremely talented"; "A very able courtroom performer and shrewd tactician"; "has the ability to pick up and analyse complex technical information"; "demonstrates particular strength in cases concerning architects, specialist consultants and civil and structural engineers. He regularly acts as sole counsel in adjudications and arbitration and has appeared as junior counsel in the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. He is becoming steadily more involved in disputes occurring in the Middle East and East Asia". [Construction]

"He's a talented performer in the courtroom"; "A welcome addition to the front Bench – a brilliant sports law lawyer with exceptional professional regulatory skills as part of his all-round talent. A vast array of sports-related experience and expertise. Tactical nous. Excellent manner with clients"; "Extremely talented in this field, having acted across a number of sports. A powerful advocate and a joy to work with"; "He is highly skilled, knows his brief and is not aggressive, but is certainly highly effective"; "Proving himself to be a rising star at the Bar for horseracing cases." "A very competent barrister with a broad sports practice." [Sport]

He prides himself on being an incisive and responsive barrister and a user-friendly team player. He places particular emphasis on having a command of the detail but without getting bogged down in trivia and being able to provide the best practical and commercial solution to legal problems.

He has wide advocacy experience and appears before the Commercial Court, Chancery Division, TCC and appellate courts as well as in sports disciplinary tribunals, including the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). Rick relishes his role as an advocate.

Rick also has a very strong arbitration practice and is currently involved in a number of high-value ICC and LCIA Arbitrations with seats in Dubai, Paris, London and Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM). The subject matter of his arbitration practice ranges from construction disputes to insurance coverage disputes to sports law and he is experienced in acting in arbitration claims where the governing law is not English law.

Rick has been involved in numerous other high-profile cases, including *Aspect v Higgins* (Supreme Court), *Mengiste v Endowment Fund (CA)*, *Elvanite v AMEC (TCC)*, *Linklaters Business Services v How Engineering Services Ltd & Ors (TCC)*, *The Innovator Litigation* (substantial multi-party Commercial Court litigation), *Amec Group Ltd v Assicurazioni Generali S.p.A.* (multi-million pound construction insurance litigation), *Mandrake v Countrywide* (Chancery Division and CA), *The TAG litigation* and the *Hillside Girl Inquiry* (Horseracing corruption hearing).

Rick is also recognised and regarded for offering expertise in the fields of sports law and sports disciplinary law. He is regularly instructed by World Rugby and has acted for numerous other international and domestic governing bodies, including the IAAF, England Netball and England Lacrosse. His cases include acting for an Olympic Gold Medalist in a selection appeal to British Rowing, the National Governing Body for Rowing; successful high profile doping appeals on behalf of the International Association of Athletics Federations at CAS; acting for a Spanish football club in a CAS appeal; advising a professional footballer on a doping appeal to the FA; advising rugby players in doping appeals and disciplinary cases; and acting in FA Rule K Arbitrations.

Rick also regularly sits as an arbitrator and was recently a member of an English Football League Arbitration Panel (together with Sir David Foskett and Andrew Smith) which determined an appeal brought by a League Two Football Club against a decision of a Disciplinary Commission. He is also frequently appointed as a sole arbitrator in FA Rule K Arbitrations.

Privacy Policy

Click here for a [Privacy Policy](#) for Richard Liddell KC.

Transparency Statement

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Expertise

Commercial Dispute Resolution

Rick's commercial dispute resolution experience includes freezing injunctions and pre-action disclosure applications.

He undertakes a wide range of commercial work, including general commercial litigation, sale of goods, product liability, partnership disputes and commercial contract claims.

Featured Commercial Dispute Resolution cases

- Advising an international company in relation to the purported termination of an agreement under the force majeure provisions in the wake of COVID-19
- Acted for a catering company in a substantial dispute brought by its former client (a football club) for repudiatory breach of contract.
- Advising on a notification provision in a share purchase agreement.
- Acting for an Insurer (resident in the UAE) in a multi-million dollar trade credit coverage dispute before the DIFC Courts.
- Acted for one of the IFAs (Part 20 Defendant) in *The Innovator Litigation*.
- Acted for The Attorney General to the Prince of Wales in a multi-million pound claim that arose out of the explosion at the Buncefield oil depot.
- Represented the manufacturer and supplier of chain links in a claim for damages brought against it by a specialist manufacturer of mooring systems (used in fish farms) in respect of substantial losses suffered as a result of the fractures of chain links.
- Represented a partnership P (specialising in licensing sports programming and products to third party broadcasters and DVD distributors) in a commercial contract dispute relating to the distribution of a DVD series previewing the 2006 FIFA World Cup.
- Acted as junior counsel (led by Sue Carr QC) for a specialist provider of veterinary services for the commercial poultry industry in a sale of goods and professional liability claim concerning the supply of a vaccine.
- Defending a share warranty claim.
- Represented a large auction house in a claim involving the conversion of a number of drawings of L S Lowry.
- The multi-party litigation that ensued following the collapse of The Accident Group.

He was awarded a first in International Commercial Litigation whilst at Cambridge University and is particularly interested in the finance of international trade and has experience of claims involving conflict of laws.

Rick is a member of the Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR).

International Arbitration

Rick has wide experience and expertise in acting as advocate and adviser in domestic and international arbitrations, including:

- LCIA, DIFC-LCIA, ICC and ADGM Arbitrations
- Reinsurance and insurance arbitrations
- Construction and engineering arbitrations
- Commercial arbitrations
- Sports arbitrations

His experience includes cases seated in London, Paris, Qatar, Singapore, Switzerland, the UAE (Dubai and the Abu Dhabi Global Market), as well as the application of foreign laws including those of UAE and Islamic Sharia, Ukraine, Russia and Monegasque.

He also accepts appointments as an arbitrator and has sat as sole arbitrator and as part of a panel.

Featured International Arbitration cases

- Acting for the respondent in a substantial set of DIFC-LCIA arbitration proceedings arising out of a distribution agreement.
- Acting for the claimant in LCIA arbitration proceedings seated in Singapore relating to a property deal.
- Acted for the respondent in complex, high-value ICC arbitration proceedings seated in Dubai concerning the allocation and valuation of businesses and assets in multiple jurisdictions, including the UAE and India. Sole advocate in three day hearing in Dubai.
- Acting for the respondent in a substantial construction arbitration (ICC), which is seated in Paris and where the governing law is Eastern European.
- Acting for an Insurance Company in high-value LCIA arbitration proceedings seated in the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) concerning property damage cover with UAE as the governing law.
- Acting for a Qatari company in a substantial ICC construction arbitration seated in London concerning a fire at a factory.

- Advised a US company in LCIA arbitration proceedings in respect of a substantial telecommunications dispute.
- Acted for an airline in a LCIA arbitration relating to aircraft leasing.
- Acted in several international reinsurance arbitrations of high value.
- Acting for insurers in defending a claim for a declaration that the avoidance of the contract of insurance was wrongful. The claim arose out of a Trade Contract relating to the construction of a prestigious office in Kent.
- Various arbitrations relating to professional indemnity coverage disputes led by Justin Fenwick QC.
- Representing Chartered Surveyors in claims brought under the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators 'Surveyors Arbitration' Scheme.
- Acting for the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) in a number of appeals to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Switzerland.
- Acting for World Rugby in an appeal to CAS
- Acting for a professional footballer in a FA Rule K Arbitration against his former intermediary (agent)
- Acting for a professional football club in a FA Rule K Arbitration
- Acting for a football club in a FA Rule K Arbitration brought by a former manager and assistant manager

Insurance & Reinsurance

A large amount of Rick's work has an insurance element. As an incident of his construction and professional liability work, Rick frequently advises on policy interpretation and coverage issues. He has also been retained in several international reinsurance arbitrations of high value.

He has extensive experience of insurance disputes involving the construction of policies, the avoidance of cover and other policy issues generally (including aggregation clauses) and is also regularly instructed by insurers in subrogated recovery actions. He has been involved in a number of cases (for both insureds and insurers) where substantial business interruption losses have been claimed. He has recently co-authored an article on event cancellation insurance, which considers various coverage issues arising from the Coronavirus/COVID-19

outbreak: <https://www.4newsquare.com/publications/sporting-event-cancellation-insurance-will-it-play-ball-or-be-kicked-into-touch/>

Featured Insurance & Reinsurance cases

- Advising on coverage issues in relation to event cancellation insurance arising from the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Acting for an Insurer (resident in the UAE) in a multi-million dollar trade credit coverage dispute before the DIFC Courts.
- Acted for Assicurazioni Generali S.p.A (Insurers) in a multi-million pound insurance dispute. Rick was junior counsel to Roger Stewart QC. The insurers had refused to indemnify the claimant contractors under a professional indemnity policy in respect of a counterclaim brought against the claimant by the defendant sub-contractor. The issues included breach of notification condition precedent, inadequate scope of notification and reliance on a policy exclusion and on dual insurance.
- Advising professional indemnity underwriters whether a Chartered Surveyor was entitled to an indemnity under his policy of professional indemnity insurance.
- Advising on a policy coverage dispute between a firm of auctioneers and valuers and their professional indemnity insurers.
- Advising an insured whether or not they were entitled to an indemnity from its insurers in respect of its loss of profits arising out of a fire at a factory.
- Advised a very large US company on a number of insurance issues arising out of a fire at a factory. Rick was junior to Roger Stewart QC.

Rick's interest in the field of insurance is not just confined to the cases in which he is instructed. Rick regularly gives talks and seminars to solicitors and insurers including seminars on *HLB Kidsons v Lloyds* and *Aspen Insurance v Pectel* and talks on "Design and Construct Insurance" and "Limits on Liability in Professional Indemnity Policies".

He also assisted Lord Justice Rix in his preparation for The Peter Taylor Memorial Lecture: "Should *Sprung* lose its spring?" The Court of Appeal in *Sprung v Royal Insurance (UK) Ltd* [1999] 1 Lloyd's Rep IR 111 had decided that there can be no claim for consequential loss by an insured for breach of a contract of insurance. Rick first had to consider the decision in *Sprung* when he was instructed on behalf of Countrywide Assured Group PLC. In the case of *Mandrake v Countrywide* [2005] EWCA Civ 840 (Rick was junior counsel to Michael Soole QC), the Court of Appeal held that it was bound by the present state of the law (*Sprung*) but Rix LJ stated that it seemed to him that the 'controversial issues raised...may well interest their Lordships' House'.

Construction & Engineering

“Richard Liddell is consistently excellent and is a brilliant advocate both in writing and orally.” “He is very sharp and incredibly hard-working. It is impressive how quickly he can digest voluminous and complex documentation and summarise key points that require actioning.” – Chambers & Partners, 2024

“Rick is exceptionally hard-working and client-focused. His advice is clear, concise and commercial. He is easy to work with and clients love his approach.” – Legal 500, 2024

“Richard Liddell has a first-rate attention to detail and is incredibly thorough.” “He is very commercial, gives practical and focused advice which is tailored to the client. He is also very quick to understand the commercial goals and what the client wants to achieve.” – Chambers & Partners

“Rick has made the transition to QC seamlessly, building an impressively busy practice. He has a lovely manner in submissions: clear and lacking in rhetoric. He is a pleasure to deal with and clearly very hardworking.” – Legal 500

“He’s quick, responsive and has a really phenomenal memory. He is very hands-on and friendly.” – Chambers & Partners

“He is very able, extremely thorough with great attention to detail, and a pleasure to deal with.” – Legal 500

“Extremely talented.” – Chambers & Partners

“A very able courtroom performer and shrewd tactician.” – Legal 500

“Very smart and conscientious.” “Bright, highly committed and extremely personable – a pleasure to work with.” – Chambers Global

A “very good advocate”; ‘quality junior’ who “has the ability to pick up and analyse complex technical information”; “A very consistent performer at a high level”. “Talented junior with a notably broad practice, who demonstrates particular strength in cases concerning architects, specialist consultants and civil and structural engineers. He regularly acts as sole counsel in adjudications and arbitration and has appeared as junior counsel in the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. He is becoming steadily more involved in disputes occurring in the Middle East and East Asia”. – Chambers & Partners

A large part of Rick’s practice involves construction and engineering disputes. Listed as a leading junior in Construction in the legal directories, he has extensive experience of advising and acting for employers, contractors and sub-contractors in a range of disputes, typically involving complex technical evidence. He also has wide experience of dealing with claims against or involving various different construction professionals including architects, engineers, M&E consultants and quantity surveyors.

He regularly appears in the Technology and Construction Court (TCC).

Rick also has experience of construction arbitrations (ICC and LCIA), adjudications, construction professional indemnity issues and contribution disputes.

Rick also has experience of dealing with construction disputes in the Middle East and in Eastern Europe and has a strong international practice.

Featured Construction & Engineering cases

- Acting for the respondent employer in a substantial construction arbitration (ICC), which is seated in Paris and where the governing law is Eastern European
- Acting for a civil engineer in a substantial multi-party claim in the TCC
- Acting for a Design and Build Contractor (led by Roger Stewart QC) in a high-profile TCC claim against a firm of architects
- Acting for the owner of a factory in ICC proceedings arising from a major fire
- Acted acting for the main contractor in a substantial multi-party dispute brought by the Co-operative Group arising from the construction of a warehouse in Rugby. [*Co-operative Group v Birse Developments Ltd.*] Led by Fiona Sinclair QC.
- Acted for the successful respondent in the Supreme Court in *Aspect Contracts v Higgins Construction plc*, a landmark case in which the Court addressed for the first time the interactions between construction adjudication, limitation, negative declaration and unjust enrichment. Led by Fiona Sinclair QC.

- Advised and acted for an Employer in adjudication proceedings brought by its Contractor in relation to the construction of a clause in their contract. Led by Roger Stewart QC.
- Acted for the successful defendant planning consultants in a two week TCC trial in front of Coulson J. Led by Anneliese Day QC. [Elvanite v AMEC (2013) EWHC 1191]. This case develops the growing body of case law surrounding planning consultants. The case also raises interesting issues concerning exclusion clauses (including UCTA), limitation of liability, estoppel, waiver, extensions of time and the correct measure of loss.
- Acting for a building services company providing electrical services in a claim relating to the supply of Busbar trunking systems.
- Acting for one of the largest development teams in the UK in respect of an action pursued by home owners arising from flooding to their property said to be caused by the development of a neighbouring housing estate.
- Acting for a company providing a range of civil, building and mechanical engineering services across the rail network in relation to a claim brought by home owners arising from flooding to their properties said to be caused by relining works to a culvert running through a railway embankment.
- Acted for Gratte Brothers Limited, electrical sub-contractors, in a multi-party and multi-million pound dispute arising from damage caused to a landmark London office building (Bankside 2) caused by a diesel oil spill. Led by Graham Eklund QC.
- Acted for a roofing contractor in a three week TCC trial arising from a major fire at a factory. Led by Graham Eklund QC.
- Acted for a Claimant (Managing Agent of the Property) in a TCC claim arising from various escapes of water from pipework in a residential development in London.
- Acted for the mechanical and electrical sub-contractor in a multi-million pound TCC trial (4 weeks) concerning corroded chilled pipework at Linklaters' offices in London. Junior counsel to David Turner QC.
- Acted for Assicurazioni Generali S.p.A (Insurers) in a multi-million pound construction insurance dispute arising from damage to the surface of a motorway. Rick was junior counsel to Roger Stewart QC.
- Acted for insurers in defending a claim for a declaration that the avoidance of the contract of insurance was wrongful. The claim arose out of a Trade Contract relating to the construction of a prestigious office in Kent. Led by Roger Stewart QC.

Memberships

Rick is a member of the Adjudication Society.

Professional Liability

"Richard is absolutely meticulous." – Chambers & Partners, 2024

"Richard is flexible, easy to work with, and accessible." – Legal 500, 2024

"He is very commercial and gives practical, focused advice." – Chambers & Partners

"Great on his feet, practical and sensible in his approach – everything goes together well." "Really down to earth and collaborative." – Chambers & Partners

"He is incredibly diligent, approachable and user friendly." – Legal 500

"We received amazing feedback for him from our clients." – Chambers & Partners

"He is a team player and is excellent on his feet." – Legal 500

"He presents very well to clients, is able to speak with authority, and comes across as somebody who is credible and knowledgeable." "He is very good technically, very commercially aware and understands the client's interests and the need to try to resolve matters in a cost-efficient way." – Chambers & Partners

"Has a very impressive work ethic and is extremely user-friendly and proactive." – Chambers & Partners

"A superb advocate" – Legal 500

Rick specialises in all fields of professional liability, with particular emphasis upon accountants and auditors, barristers and solicitors, construction professionals and insurance brokers.

Listed as a leading junior in Professional Liability in both Chambers & Partners and Legal 500, he prides himself on being an incisive and responsive barrister and a user-friendly team player. He is meticulous and places particular emphasis on being able to provide

the best practical and commercial solution to legal problems. He has wide advocacy experience and relishes his role as an advocate.

Rick is also regularly instructed to appear at mediations and round table conferences. He approaches all aspects of the mediation process (including drafting position papers and the advocacy element) with a clear understanding of its purpose and difference from adversarial litigation.

Rick's interest in this field is not just confined to the cases in which he is instructed. Rick also gives talks and seminars on the subject and is a member of the Professional Negligence Bar Association.

Accountants, Auditors & Actuaries

Rick regularly acts both for and against accountants, auditors and tax advisers in litigation and disciplinary proceedings. He is familiar with the audit process and applicable accounting and auditing standards. He is also frequently instructed in claims (against IFAS, solicitors, accountants and tax advisers), which require detailed knowledge and understanding of various tax regimes (both in the UK and abroad).

Featured cases

- Successfully acted for a famous singer/songwriter in a claim against his former accountants and tax advisers for failures to (a) lodge exemption forms on behalf of the claimant with a result he had to pay significantly more Irish Income Tax than would otherwise have been the case and (b) prepare the claimant's Irish and UK Tax Returns;
- Currently acting for various individuals in substantial claims against accountants (among others) arising from advice relating to collective investment schemes;
- Acted for a well-known footballer in a potential claim against his former accountants arising from an 'investment' in a film finance scheme;
- Currently acting for a very famous cricketer in a claim against his former accountants arising from advice given/not given in connection with an image rights' company;
- Currently acting for a firm of chartered accountants who are being sued by the owner of a leisure industry business for (allegedly) failing to act competently in connection with its VAT overpayment claims to HMRC arising from various European decisions dealing with fiscal neutrality and gaming machines;
- Successfully acted for various individuals and trustees in a claim against their former accountants and tax advisers relating to capital gains tax payable following the sale of another company;
- Acted for a firm of accountants in a Part 20 claim brought by a firm of solicitors relating to tax payable by the Claimant following the sale of a company;
- Acted for a firm of accountants in a claim arising out of advice concerning capital allowances due to the Claimants from their position as owners of a nursing home;
- Junior counsel to Roger Stewart QC in an action by the trustees in bankruptcy of a firm of solicitors against its former practice accountants;
- Acting for and against wealth management companies, IFAs, tax advisers (lawyers) in a number of claims arising from negligent advice concerning SIPPs, unsuitable investments and the UK tax implications relating to the reconstruction of a French company.

Rick was also engaged in litigation involving tax schemes (Information & Communication) technology: *The Innovator Litigation*.

Rick has also acted for and against the then Accountancy Investigation & Discipline Board (AADB) and the FRC (as Junior Counsel to Ben Hubble QC) in a number of high-profile matters:

- Prosecuted a major firm of accountants relating to the audits of a UK FTSE 250 Company;
- Prosecuted the European Financial Controller of a UK FTSE 250 Company;
- Defended FRC disciplinary proceedings against Paul Newsham (auditor) arising from the audit of various long term construction contracts.

Construction Professionals

Rick regularly acts in claims against construction professionals: most frequently architects and engineers, but also M&E consultants and project managers.

Featured cases

- He was junior counsel in a £20 million dispute against project managers and computer consultants jointly advising on the construction of an automated distribution warehouse (*Universal Music v E.C. Harris*).
- He is currently acting for a number of architects in design and build contracts.
- He has acted for Claimants in claims against the designers and installers of water systems in residential developments.

Financial Services Professionals

Rick has experience of claims involving financial services professionals and/or which require a consideration of the financial services statutory regime.

Featured cases

- Acting on behalf of an independent financial advisor (Part 20 Defendant) in *The Innovator Litigation*.
- Acting for a financial advisor in a claim relating to pension mis-selling.

Insurance Brokers & Agents

Rick is frequently instructed in claims involving insurance brokers and agents. He regularly acts in multiparty actions where both insurers and insurance intermediaries are parties.

Featured cases

- Junior counsel to Roger Stewart QC in a multi-million pound claim against a firm of insurance brokers in relation to their failure to effect suitable and valid insurance for the Claimant construction company.
- Acting for brokers defending a substantial claim for damages. The claimant's property was severely damaged by fire and Insurers subsequently declined cover. The claimant alleged that, but for the negligent advice given by the brokers, insurers would have provided cover.
- Defending brokers against a claim for alleged negligence in failing to obtain suitable terms or to advise the insured of them in relation to commercial property insurance.
- Acted for brokers sued by a former professional rugby player.

Lawyers

Rick has extensive experience of acting for both claimants and defendants in claims against lawyers – both solicitors and barristers. His experience includes wasted costs litigation and claims relating to Share Purchase Agreements, commercial disputes, property transactions and mortgage fraud.

He also has very considerable experience of claims arising from lost and mishandled litigation. Rick's experience in his first few years of practice of defending clinical negligence and personal injury claims (including being regularly instructed by the Metropolitan Police) has proved invaluable in dealing with professional liability claims arising out of an original dispute in the clinical negligence and personal injury fields.

Featured cases

- Acting for a firm of accountants in a Part 20 claim brought by a firm of solicitors relating to tax payable by the Claimant following the sale of a company.
- Acted for Bar Mutual and two QCs in a case described by the Lawyer as “...one of the biggest professional negligence battles of [2013]” [Haskew v Pannone & Ors]
- Junior Counsel for Rylatt Chubb following the decision of Peter Smith J to make a wasted costs order against it. Appeared in the Court of Appeal (led by Graeme McPherson QC) who held that (a) the wasted costs order would need to be set aside on the grounds that the judge should have recused himself from hearing the wasted costs application and (b) any restored stage 1 application would need to be considered by a different judge. [Rylatt Chubb v Endowment Fund for the Rehabilitation of Tigray and others [2013] EWCA Civ 1003]
- Successfully representing a barrister and the BMIF in a High Court strike out application against the claimant.
- Acting for a well-known firm of solicitors in a multi-million pound claim relating to the alleged negligent drafting of a Share Purchase Agreement.
- *The TAG Litigation* [2006] EWHC 939 (Comm): high-profile case examining the solicitors’ responsibility towards ATE insurers in the wake of the collapse of ‘The Accident Group’ claims management scheme.
- *Sweet v Blight Skinnard Solicitors*: acted for the firm of solicitors in a 2-day trial in a claim arising from their failure to inform the claimant purchasers prior to purchase that the lane required to access their land was privately owned and that they did not have any right to use the land.
- Acted for a large supermarket chain in a substantial claim against a firm of solicitors arising from the purchase of a plot of land. Junior counsel to Roger Stewart QC.
- Various mortgage fraud cases.
- Advising on various issues relating to lenders’ claims against solicitors.
- Junior counsel to Justin Fenwick QC in defending claims brought against a firm of solicitors relating to alleged undersettlements of claims for Vibration White Finger against British Coal.
- Junior Counsel to Simon Monty QC in a 2 week solicitors’ negligence trial: *Woodfine Leeds Smith (A Firm) v Richard Russell* [2007] EWHC 603 (QB).

Surveyors & Valuers

Rick has extensive experience in respect of claims against valuers and surveyors, both those brought by lenders and those brought by property owners.

Rick also acted for *Christie & Co* (valuers) in a five day trial in the first known decision (according to Simpson on Professional Negligence) in which a party has recovered damages against an independent expert appointed jointly by the parties to carry out a valuation of a freehold licensed premises pursuant to an option in a lease.

He is currently acting for valuers in a claim brought by a short term finance company relating to the alleged overvaluation of an equestrian property in Newmarket.

He has wide advocacy experience and relishes his role as an advocate. Amongst other things, he has experience of and expertise in cross-examining expert witnesses, including valuers.

Featured cases

- Acting for valuers in numerous lenders’ claims.
- Junior Counsel to John Powell QC in a claim against an estate agent for alleged breach of fiduciary duty.
- Structural surveying cases – both residential and commercial.
- Junior counsel to Paul Sutherland in a claim arising from a pre-purchase inspection of a helicopter.
- Defending disciplinary complaints brought against surveyors.

Veterinary Surgeons

Rick has experience of defending claims brought against veterinary surgeons. His cases include:

- Defending a specialist provider of veterinary services for the commercial poultry industry in a multi-million pound claim arising from the sale and supply of a vaccine. Junior Counsel to Sue Carr QC.
- Acting for a veterinary surgeon in a claim arising from the death of a famous event horse.
- Acting for a veterinary surgeon in a claim arising from the treatment of sand cracks.

Rick has also given talks on the liability of veterinary surgeons generally and more specifically in the context of pre-purchase examinations and the increasing number of claims relating to the buying and selling of horses.

Rick also has extensive experience of acting in equine related disputes. Please see the section titled 'Equine Disputes' for further information.

Equine Disputes

Rick has extensive experience of acting in equine related disputes, including ownership disputes and claims against veterinary surgeons and farriers. He has considerable experience of acting in cases involving horses in civil litigation and also in cases before the British Horseracing Authority (acting for the BHA and also acting for trainers and jockeys).

Featured Equine Disputes cases

- Claim by showjumping trainer against a farrier: Acted for the Claimant (a showjumping trainer) in a substantial High Court claim against her former farrier arising from a valuable horse being unable to compete again as a result of laminitis.
- Claim by purchasers of an eventing horse against the seller: Acted for the Claimants who purchased a horse from a company specialising in selling horses as "events/showjumpers/hunters". On being ridden for the first time following arrival at the Claimants' yard, the horse was found to be unsound; and it transpired the horse had a pre-existing degenerative condition (osteochondrosis).
- Claim between two individuals relating to the purchase, keep and training of show jumping horses: Acted for the Claimant in a breach of contract claim arising from agreements between the parties whereby the Claimant would fund the purchase of horses recommended to him by the Defendant; and the Defendant would train the horses and pay all ongoing costs and the parties would split any profits upon the sale of the horses.
- Veterinary Negligence claims: Acted for veterinary surgeons in professional negligence claims, including a claim arising from the death of a famous eventing horse; and acted in a claim arising from the allegedly negligent treatment of sand cracks.
- Racehorse Owners Association: Instructed on behalf of the ROA in connection with a complaint by some of their members (owners) in relation to the purchase of a horse).
- National Trainers Federation: Instructed by the NTF to represent trainers in disciplinary matters, including Alan Barry (trainer) in the HILLSIDE GIRL enquiry.
- British Horseracing Authority: Instructed by the BHA to advise and to appear at numerous Enquiries, disciplinary hearings and appeal hearings. The subject matter of the cases were varied, including: corruption and financial impropriety; bringing horseracing into disrepute and other improper conduct (including horse welfare issues); prohibited substance cases; non-triers and interference disputes. Many of these cases involved cross-examination of individuals and experts, including veterinary surgeons.
- Representing Trainers and Jockeys: in cases before the BHA, including running and riding appeals and prohibited substance cases.
- Selection Disputes: acted for a high-profile eventer in a selection dispute in the lead up to the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

Disciplinary

Rick has wide experience of disciplinary work and this part of his practice is split between Professional Disciplinary Work and Sports Disciplinary Work.

In relation to the former, he has a strong track record in the financial disciplinary arena and his cases include being retained by the then Accountancy Investigation & Discipline Board AADB). He acted for the AADB (as Junior Counsel to Ben Hubble QC) in:

- Prosecuting a major firm of accountants relating to the audits of a UK FTSE 250 Company
- Prosecuting the European Financial Controller of a UK FTSE 250 Company

He has also acted for Respondents and is currently retained by an accountant to defend allegations of Misconduct brought by the Financial Reporting Council (led by Ben Hubble QC).

Rick is also currently acting for a chartered accountant and member of the ICAEW in proceedings before the ICAEW's Disciplinary Committee relating to various audits.

In addition to prosecuting and defending accountants, Rick also has experience of defending disciplinary complaints brought against surveyors. He has been instructed to defend complaints brought against a Chartered Surveyor under the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Arbitration Scheme (administered by the Chartered Institute of Chartered Surveyors).

On the sports law front, he is regularly instructed by the British Horseracing Authority to appear at Inquiries, disciplinary hearings and appeal hearings involving cases of corruption and financial impropriety and allegations of bringing racing into disrepute and other improper conduct. He has also acted for jockeys and trainers in disciplinary matters instructed by the National Trainers Federation. He has also acted in doping cases both for the prosecuting body (the International Association of Athletics Federations) and the athlete (a professional football player).

Rick has been described in the legal directories as "highly skilled, knows his brief and is not aggressive, but is highly effective", "proving himself to be a rising star at the Bar for horseracing cases" and "good at cutting through the noise to get at the points that matter."

Costs & Litigation Funding

Rick has expertise in the specialist field of costs.

Featured Costs cases

- Resisting and obtaining costs capping orders.
- Successfully contesting a very senior Counsel's CFA uplift in a personal injury claim.
- Junior counsel to Justin Fenwick QC in litigation concerning the alleged under-settlement (by a firm of solicitors) of a number of claimants' vibration white finger claims; a number of issues (generic and otherwise) in respect of costs required to be considered.
- Advising on appropriate costs orders in the Regulatory field (for the British Horseracing Authority).
- Appearing for both claimants and defendants in respect of applications for conditional (costs) orders and security for costs.
- Lecturing firms of solicitors on the ramifications of the Part 36 costs regime and potential pitfalls for the unwary.

Sports Law

"Incredibly pragmatic and good to deal with. His written work is fantastic and his cross-examination and advocacy are absolutely spot-on." – Chambers & Partners, 2024

"Richard is the complete package. His advocacy and particularly his cross-examination is fearsome, and his written work is always spot-on. A class act." – Legal 500, 2024

"Richard Liddell KC is fantastic and has lots of experience across football and rugby. He is also polished in court." – Chambers & Partners

"He understands the football law industry very well and is good with clients including footballers, clubs and agents." – Legal 500

"His advocacy style is so engaging, and his closing is also fantastic." – Chambers & Partners

“A welcome addition to the front Bench – a brilliant sports law lawyer with exceptional professional regulatory skills as part of his all-round talent. A vast array of sports-related experience and expertise. Tactical nous. Excellent manner with clients.” – Legal 500

“He has a great understanding of the world of sports disputes and he is able to draw on a host of past experience to help guide a case.” – Chambers & Partners

“Excellent at assessing the best strategic options.” – Legal 500

“Extremely talented in this field, having acted across a number of sports. A powerful advocate and a joy to work with.” – Chambers & Partners

Richard is a highly regarded sports law barrister. He acts for both athletes/players and governing bodies and has appeared in appeals in the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

Richard’s cases have spanned the following sports: athletics, badminton, boxing, cricket, eventing, football, hockey, horseracing, ice hockey, lacrosse, rowing, rugby union and shooting.

Richard is instructed in sports commercial disputes, disciplinary matters and sports arbitrations, including anti-doping cases and safeguarding matters. He also advises on sports-regulatory and welfare issues; and has advised on the implications of the Equality Act 2010 (which provides a legal framework to protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity for all) in the context of a group of players with a particular disability.

Richard was one of a handful of ‘specialist advocates’ on the pro bono panel for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and acted in a number of matters in the lead up to the London 2012, Rio 2016 and Tokyo (2021) Olympics.

Featured Sports cases

- Court of Arbitration for Sport: Acted for a Spanish football club in an appeal from a Decision of the FIFA Players’ Status Committee.
- Court of Arbitration for Sport: Acted for World Rugby in an anti-doping appeal brought by an international level player.
- SAIDS Arbitration: Acted for the South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport in anti-doping proceedings brought against a Springbok player.
- Rugby Football Union Disciplinary Panel: Acted for one of the Barbarians FC rugby players in disciplinary proceedings brought by the RFU for breaches of the COVID-19 protocols and regulations.
- UK Anti-Doping: Acted for an elite level athlete (runner) who was being investigated by UKAD for a potential breach of the Anti-Doping Rules (but was ultimately persuaded not to charge the athlete).
- National Safeguarding Panel: Acted for a national governing body in an arbitration commenced by a sports coach who was challenging findings of fact in a report by two independent investigators.
- Sitting as a specialist arbitrator in various football matters, including the recent high-profile Wigan FC appeal.

Richard has previously acted for the IAAF in anti-doping appeals; the British Horseracing Authority in cases of corruption and financial impropriety; and has been retained in various sports commercial litigation cases.

Richard also lectures on sports law issues and is a member of the International Bar Association, BASL (the British Association for Sport and Law). He is also on the Editorial Board of LawInSport.

Property Damage

Rick has a strong commercial, insurance, product liability and professional negligence pedigree, which has enabled him to build a strong reputation for dealing with property damage claims; and he has extensive experience of acting in multi-party and high-profile claims arising out of damage to property, particularly caused by fire, explosions, water penetration and subsidence. Rick is regularly instructed to act on behalf of Claimants and Defendants in such claims.

Rick also has a very busy construction practice, which lends itself perfectly to those property damage claims against construction professionals. He is recommended as a leading junior in the legal Directories for Construction and is described as “a quality junior who has the ability to pick up and analyse complex technical information”; and “a very consistent performer at a high level” and “a superb advocate”.

He relishes his role as an advocate and frequently appears in the TCC. In addition to his court work, he has experience of acting in adjudications and arbitrations.

Featured Property Damage cases

- Acting for the freeholder of a warehouse (occupied by Boots), which was badly damaged by fire, in a claim against various parties including an electrical sub-contractor.
- Acted on behalf of a company providing security services in a claim relating to a fire at an industrial site where numerous wooden pallets were stored and destroyed.
- Acting on behalf of a contractor who designed and installed a kitchen air extraction system at a restaurant. The claim arises from a significant fire at the restaurant and neighbouring properties.
- Acted for a company and its insurers in a claim arising from an explosion at a chemical plant.
- Acted for a Design & Build Contractor in respect of two claims arising from work carried out at the St Pancras Hotel, London. The first claim related to a fire. The second claim related to a flood and losses said to have arisen from a major power cut.
- Acting for a Design & Build Contractor regarding the partial collapse of a commercial building.
- Defended a roofing contractor in a claim for damages arising from a fire, which caused extensive damage to the Claimant's factory.
- Acted for the Part 20 Defendant in two related claims arising from a fire at the Malmaison Hotel in Oxford.
- Acted for Network Rail and another company in a claim brought by numerous home owners arising from flooding to their properties and possessions said to have been caused by relining works to a culvert running through a railway embankment.
- Acted for electrical sub-contractors in defending a multi-party TCC claim relating to a diesel oil spill in a large building in London.
- Acted for a developer in a claim for damages arising from flood damage to the Claimants' property caused by the defective design and/or installation of drains in the adjacent development site.
- Acted in a claim arising from an explosion in an ammunition factory.
- Acted for the Attorney General for the Prince of Wales in the Buncefield litigation

Awards



Qualifications

He is a member of COMBAR, PNBA, the Chancery Bar Association and the British Association for Sport and Law. He is also a member of the IBA and IPBA.

Education – M.A. (Cantab.) LL.M. (Cantab.)