



Ben Collins QC



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Profile

Ben has directory recognition as a leading silk in no fewer than four fields of practice: employment, professional discipline, clinical negligence and personal injury.

Chambers & Partners says that Ben "**impresses clients with his steely approach**" and is "**superbly efficient, thorough and practical.**" "**He also inspires confidence when it comes to sensitive cases.**" Ben has a wide-ranging practice in both private and public law, with particular expertise in employment, health care and disciplinary work.

Ben has been consistently recognised by the directories for many years as a leading practitioner in employment law. His other primary areas of practice are Public Law and Human Rights, Professional Regulation, Medical Law and Clinical Negligence, Personal Injury, Inquests, Sports Disputes and Professional Negligence.

Ben has huge experience in employment and discrimination claims, with particular expertise in disability discrimination and other health-related issues (including mixed employment, regulatory, discrimination and personal injury claims). He has considerable experience of high profile and high-value whistleblowing claims; and of public sector work in general. He appears very regularly in [disputes involving doctors](#).

His disciplinary practice involves representing practitioners and professional bodies in professional conduct proceedings before regulatory bodies such as the GMC, GDC and ARB, as well as in judicial review challenges in the Administrative Court. He has appeared in [university](#) and police disciplinary proceedings. He has advised professional regulatory bodies on their human rights responsibilities. He has experience of major financial services regulatory work, including internationally (he appeared in the first contested hearing before the DIFC FMT in Dubai).

He is regularly instructed by both claimants and defendants in complex and high-value clinical negligence and personal injury claims. He has enormous experience in addressing medical issues and an in-depth understanding of the work of clinical professionals.

Ben must be considered one of the leading experts in the law of criminal injuries compensation at the bar, having appeared in the vast majority of significant recent cases, including *CP* (CA, fetal alcohol syndrome), *Jones* (SC, crime of violence), *Y* (CA, status of unborn child) and *JT* (CA, same roof rule). He is Consulting Editor to Miers on *Criminal Injuries Compensation* (OUP).

His public law practice involves review of decisions in the fields of equality, medical law, professional regulation, mental health, coroners, prisons and immigration. He advised the Lord Chancellor on changes to the discount rate for personal injury damages, and defended APIL's judicial review of the rate. His work frequently encompasses human rights, often in the context of equality law and mixed human rights/common law damages claims.



He appears regularly in coroners' inquests, in particular where deaths in hospitals and/or in detention raise Human Rights issues. He also has experience of judicial review of coroners' decisions.

He is regularly instructed to appear in mediations, most often in the fields of employment, discrimination and personal injury law.

Publications

- Consulting Editor to Miers on Criminal Injuries Compensation (OUP).
- Contributing Editor to Professional Negligence and Liability (LLP), dealing with clinical practitioners.
- Ben has contributed articles to JPIL, NLJ, ELA Review, Occupational Medicine, Judicial Review and Legal and Medical. He lectures regularly on a range of topics including employment and discrimination law, clinical negligence, human rights, medical law, professional discipline and civil procedure. He has led sessions at the ELA annual conference.

Appointments

- Recorder (2018)
- Queen's Counsel (2016)
- Called to the Bar of Northern Ireland (2016)
- Special Advocate
- Member, International Paralympic Committee anti-doping appeal panel
- Attorney-General's A Panel of Counsel (before taking silk)
- Former Member, Bar Standards Board Qualifications Committee
- Bar Pro Bono Unit, Reviewer Member
- ELA Pro Bono Committee
- Member of: ELA, ELBA, ARDL, PNBA, PIBA, Justice

Recent and current work

Ben has appeared in over 40 reported cases – too many to list here. A small selection of significant recent work includes:

- *R (DSD & NBV) v Parole Board and others* [2019] QB 285: Judicial Review of the decision to release “black cab rapist” John Worboys
- *JT v FTT* [2019] 1 WLR 1313. Lawfulness of the “same roof rule” for historic abuse claims.
- *HXM v MOD* (HC, 2019). Liability for and consequences of neonatal stroke.
- *Gilham v SSJ* [2018] ICR 827 (Supreme Court 2019). Worker status of Judges
- *Asante v Guy's and St Thomas NHS Trust* [2018] EWHC Civ 2570 (QB): Failure to treat osteomyelitis in patient with sickle cell disease
- *X v DFSA* (2018). Financial services regulatory appeal in Dubai International Finance Centre
- *R (Gourlay) v Parole Board* [2017] 1 WLR 4107 (on appeal to Supreme Court). Whether Parole Board should be treated as a court for costs purposes. Whether the rule that courts will not ordinarily pay costs in JR proceedings is still good law.
- *McCloud and others v Lord Chancellor* (ET, 2016 – one of The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of 2016). Age discrimination claims brought by around 200 judges following government reform of the judicial pension scheme