

Paul Kirtley

Call 1982



Clerks' Details

👤 Ian Spencer
☎ 0113 203 1971

👤 Rebecca Bennett
☎ 0113 203 1985

👤 Nicole Haigh
☎ 0113 203 1975

Appointments

- Recorder (1999) - Civil, Crime and Private Family Work
- Accredited Civil and Commercial Mediator (2004)
- Accredited Workplace Mediator (2014)

Memberships

- The Professional Mediators' Association
- Personal Injury Bar Association
- Employment Law Bar Association
- Professional Negligence Bar Association
- Employment Lawyers Association
- Industrial Law Society
- North Eastern Circuit Representative on the General Council of the Bar (10 years)
- Former Vice Chair Public Affairs Committee and Remuneration Committee of the Bar Council
- Accredited Advocacy Trainer (North Eastern Circuit)
- Chairman of the Bar Conference 2006

Overview

Paul is considered one of the leading civil practitioners on the North Eastern Circuit.

His expansive practice covers a wide range of areas including:

- Personal injury and clinical negligence – highly experienced in complex, high value injury claims - particularly traumatic brain injury, amputee and chronic pain claims.
- Employment - regularly appears on behalf of clients in the Employment Tribunal, the Employment Appeal Tribunal and the Civil Courts.
- Regulatory – his practice covers a number of sectors, including police, fire, healthcare, sport and local authority. He is one of a select group of barristers who is instructed on behalf of the Police Federation to represent its members.
- Mediation – Paul is an accredited civil and commercial and workplace mediator. He regularly mediates in a wide range of disputes, including commercial; employment including race and sex discrimination; public sector; solicitors and valuers' negligence claims; medical negligence and personal injury claims.

Recommendations

Paul regularly appears as a leader in his field in the list of Expert Advisors, Chambers and Partners Guide and The Legal 500 publications:

“Really experienced, and confident and calm in his approach. You really feel in safe hands when you’re working with him.” “He is an excellent and persuasive advocate. His client skills are unparalleled on the Northern Circuit.”

“An experienced junior - he’s very knowledgeable, pragmatic and good with vulnerable clients.”

“He is very good with clients and is very reassuring.” “Experienced and very polished.”
Chambers and Partners 2021

“He really knows his stuff.” “He is excellent and very experienced.”

“Paul’s client care skills are second to none; he has a gentle, professional manner and gets good results.”

Chambers and Partners 2020

“It is a joy to watch him cross-examine. He is very experienced and really knows his stuff.” “Paul gets to the key issues very quickly and is an excellent and persuasive advocate.”

“He’s very good at dissecting a case and looking at the pros and cons on liability very quickly. He is also very good with clients.” “Very knowledgeable and excellent with clients.”

Chambers and Partners 2019

“He is bright and meticulous, with a great client manner and just the right amount of gravitas.” “He is an exceptionally clever man, incredibly engaging and generally very highly regarded by everyone.”

“His service level is excellent and he turns papers around quickly. He is approachable and has a very good manner with clients.”

Chambers and Partners 2018

“He’s a very well-thought of and experienced practitioner who has a very good manner with clients.” “He has a thoughtful approach to complex claims and excellent client-care skills.”

Chambers and Partners 2017

“He’s very good in writing, amiable and good with clients.”

Chambers and Partners 2016

“Very experienced junior. Also sits as a recorder and therefore has a wealth of experience. Very knowledgeable, pragmatic, caring and compassionate with vulnerable clients. Lots of brain injury and amputation injury experience. His eye for detail and considered manner make him perfect for high value serious injury work.”

“In my opinion he is an unrivalled advocate and a master of cross-examination. One of, if not the best employment barristers on the circuit. Paul combines a mastery of subject knowledge with a keen sense of commercial awareness and a focus on practical outcomes. He is a favourite of every client and the barrister I would want representing me if ever I needed one.”

“Extremely empathetic with clients, kind and insightful. Excellent analysis of complex medical and legal issues. Collaborative and just generally a really strong team player.”

The Legal 500 2021

“He has an excellent way with clients.”

“Bright and well-prepared.”

“Vastly knowledgeable and experienced with workplace claims.”

“Delivers his advice in a straightforward and concise manner.”

The Legal 500 2020

“Very experienced in representing clients before the Employment Appeal Tribunal.”

“An insightful, knowledgeable and meticulous barrister.”

“Well known for acting for police forces in regulatory matters.”

“An excellent mediator”.

The Legal 500 2018/19

“He builds good rapport with clients”

“A superb analyst.”

“He has an insightful eye for the heart of a case.”

The Legal 500 2017

“A superb advocate with excellent client skills.”

“He provides superb attention to detail and great empathy.”

“He frequently leaves witnesses lost for words in cross-examination.”

The Legal 500 2016

“His no-nonsense attitude makes him a firm favourite with clients.”

The Legal 500 2015

“He manages experts well.”

“Paul is a skilled and committed barrister who shows great empathy towards clients.

“He leaves no stone unturned and gives the Claimant confidence.

“His attention to detail is first rate and his turnaround time is always impressive.

“A natural communicator, Paul is outstanding in settlement meetings.

“The complete barrister, Paul is streets ahead of a number of silks.”

The Legal 500 2014

“Paul is excellent on his feet – clear and concise. He also have a great manner with solicitors and clients alike, being approachable and user-friendly.”

Emma Gaudern, Managing Director, EMG Solicitors

“Paul gave a sterling talk which was very informative.”

Endorsement following a talk for The Industrial Law Society

“Paul is a skilled and committed barrister who shows great empathy towards clients.”

Julie Blackburn, Thompsons Solicitors

“Paul is a brilliant advocate who is very approachable and good with clients.”

Heather Jobling, Jobling Gowler

“He is proactive in his approach to cases, meticulous in his attention to detail and excellent in conference. All round, an impressive advocate.”

Andrew Armstrong, Armstrong Luty Solicitors

“Paul’s greatest strength is his empathy for clients. He is also technically excellent, helpful and approachable.”

Helen Shakespeare, Thompsons Solicitors

“Paul’s breadth of knowledge, eye for detail and meticulous preparation make him an outstanding advocate.”

“Above all, he is genuinely interested in the case and really does care about the client.”

Harry Eyre, Solicitor to the National Union of Mineworkers

“Paul is the ultimate professional.”

“He quickly gains the confidence and respect of clients who appreciate his unwavering

commitment to their case.”

“Friendly, approachable and committed to excellence in every case he takes on, Paul’s excellent analytical skills and attention to detail set him apart.”

Samantha Clark, Irwin Mitchell

Education

MA (Cantab). Downing College, Cambridge

Beyond the Bar

Paul is a classic car enthusiast and holds an International Rally Drivers Licence, Heavy Goods Vehicle and PSV licences. He also enjoys hill walking and skiing, notwithstanding his knee replacement operation.