



Andrew Kinnier KC

“Calm, unflappable, straight talking. One of my go-to leaders on complex cases because he is intellectual and strategic”.

- Legal 500 2022

Call 1996
Silk 2018

Tel: +44 (0)20 7583 9020
Email: clerks@hendersonchambers.co.uk

Andrew Kinnier KC is recognised as a leading silk and advocate in the fields of Product Liability, Group Actions, Inquests and Inquiries, Public Procurement, Administrative and Public law and Health and Safety.

He is recommended as a “*first rate advocate*”, “*bright, able and fearless*”, “*a silk who fights his client’s corner*”, “*phenomenally committed to the cause of the client*” and “*those that instruct him comment on his accessibility as well as the experience, knowledge, leadership and insight he brings to bear on a matter*”. This “*efficient and focused barrister*” displays an “*amazing attention to detail*” and a “*fine understanding of difficult and tricky concepts*”. Andrew is recommended as “*an expert on very technical and scientific points*” and “*those that instruct him comment on his accessibility as well as the experience, knowledge, leadership and insight he brings to bear on a matter*”.

For more information about the way barristers at Henderson Chambers work, including our terms of engagement, fee transparency statement and our complaints process, [please click here](#). Barristers are regulated by the Bar Standards Board.

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Product Liability

“Andrew is a clear, forceful and utterly charming advocate. He reads the Court very well and quickly builds an effective rapport with the bench”.

“Calm, unflappable, straight talking. One of my go-to leaders on complex cases because he is intellectual and strategic”.

“A very bright and charming silk, who is great with judges and clients. Unassuming but with a core of steel. He recognises that sometimes the fight is what you have to do to achieve your strategic goals”.

Andrew is a leading specialist in defence-side product liability work and has been recommended by Chambers

& Partners and the Legal 500 for more than 15 years. His product liability practice includes many of the largest and most high-profile cases of the past few decades including NOx emissions, Asbestolux/Marinite, Seroxat, Metal-on-Metal hip implants, combined hip prostheses, pelvic mesh, PIP breast implants and vaccines. He is described as a “*rising star*” and “*a leading figure in defence work*” who receives very high praise for his involvement in complex product liability cases, particularly those concerning defective medical devices and pharmaceuticals. He is also recommended as “*a very stylish advocate. He is confident, articulate and persuasive*”.

He is a contributor to the “International Product Law Manual” published by Kluwer.

Representative Cases

- *NOx emissions litigation*
Acting for a major diesel car manufacturer in group litigation regarding NOx emissions.
- *The Seroxat Group Action*
A claim under the Consumer Protection Act 1987 in which it is alleged that the claimants were unable to discontinue their use of the antidepressant Seroxat.
- *In the matter of a vaccine*
Acting for manufacturer of a vaccine for the treatment of influenza during a pandemic in relation to hundreds of claims brought by those alleging injury due to inoculation.
- *Concept 70 Limited & ors v. Cape Intermediate Holdings PLC*
Acting for the manufacturer of asbestos products in lead claims brought by insurers to recover outlay in relation to thousands of historic asbestos claims.
- *Cape Distribution Limited v. Cape Intermediate Holdings PLC [2016] EWHC 1119 QB*
Insurance proceedings brought by insurers to recover outlay in relation to thousands of historic asbestos claims.
- *Bailey & Others v GSK [2016] EWHC 178 (QB); [2016] EWHC 1975 (QB)*
Consideration of the question whether a stay should be lifted on group litigation.
- *Gold Venture Lodges (Pty) v Land Rover*
A claim under the Consumer Protection Act 1987 in which the Land Rover Defender was alleged to be defective.
- *The British Coke Workers Group Litigation*
A group action in which former coke oven workers allege that exposure to various fumes and gases caused cancers and other conditions.
- *The Mau Mau Group Litigation*
Advising the Foreign & Commonwealth Office regarding various matters arising in group litigation brought in relation to alleged human rights violations in Kenya in the 1950s.
- *Lane v British Telecommunications PLC*
Acting for BT in relation to a threatened group action in which it was alleged that occupational noise exposure in relation to Strowger exchange equipment caused deafness.

- *The British Coal Respiratory Disease Litigation*
A group action in which former miners alleged that exposure to coal dust had caused a range of respiratory conditions.
- *The Phurnacite Group Litigation*
Acting for the Department of Energy & Climate Change in group litigation following determination of the lead cases in relation to the Phurnacite plant in South Wales.
- *The Metal-on-Metal Hip Implant Litigation*
The Combined Hip Prostheses Litigation
- *The PIP Breast Implants Group Litigation*
Acting for the UK exclusive distributor of PIP silicone breast implants that are alleged to be of unsatisfactory quality. The claim was one of The Lawyer's Top 20 Claims for 2016.
- *Pearce v Secretary of State for Energy & Climate Change [2015] EWHC 3775 (QB)*
Application regarding extension of cut-off date for entry on to group register.
- *Holloway & Ors v Transform Medical Group (CS) Ltd & ors [2014] EWHC 1641 (QB)*
Acting in application successfully resisting a late application to join group register.
- *XYZ v Various [2014] EWHC 4056 (QB)*
Acting for an insurer who successfully resisted a joinder application to insurance proceedings relating to the PIP Breast Implants Litigation.
- *Martin v Bard UK*
Acting for the manufacturer of vaginal meshes in litigation in which it is alleged that the product is defective.
- *The Isolagen Litigation*
Acting for surgeons in 52 claims relating to the cosmetic treatment known as Isolagen.
- *Webster v Liddington [2014] EWCA Civ 560; [2015] 1 All ER (Comm)*
Acting for clinicians in litigation in which the Court of Appeal considered their liability for alleged misrepresentations contained in the manufacturer's promotional literature.
- *Kesabo & Ors v African Barrick Gold PLC [2013] EWHC 3198*
A number of claims brought by Tanzanian nationals against African Barrick Gold claiming damages for personal injury and deaths arising from a series of incidents at the North Mara Mine in 2010 – 2011. The claim was one of The Lawyer's Top 20 Claims for 2015.
- *The Miners' Knee Group Action*
A claim in which former miners alleged that their working conditions had caused osteoarthritis of the knee.
- *The Cornwall Partnership Trust Group Action*
A claim in which former patients alleged they had suffered physical, sexual and financial abuse whilst under the care of the NHS Trust.

Group Actions

“Genuinely faultless. He is always well prepared, calm and pragmatic.”

“A skilful advocate”

“Andrew is an excellent silk who makes time for clients and gives clear advice”

“Andrew is a rarity among KCs, he is ultra-approachable with clients and queries. Yet, when it comes to the court he is a goliath of an advocate. During cross-examination, he can gain the trust of a witness, only to unleash a serrated edge when the next witness in line is obstructive.”

Andrew is a highly experienced defence-side advocate in group actions. He has been involved in the major group actions of the past 20 years including the Seroxat litigation; the Metal-on-Metal Hip litigation; the Combined Hip Prostheses litigation; the PIP breast implants litigation; the Miners’ Knee litigation; the British Coal Respiratory Disease litigation; the Coke Workers litigation and the Phurnacite litigation.

Andrew also has extensive experience of mass tort claims particularly those alleging human rights violations inside and outside the United Kingdom. His practice in this field includes *Kesabo v. Africa Barrick Gold PLC*, the Mau Mau litigation and the Cornwall Partnership Trust litigation.

Representative Cases

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- *The Cornwall Partnership Trust Group Action*
A claim in which former patients alleged they had suffered physical, sexual and financial abuse whilst under the care of the NHS Trust.

Public Inquiries and Inquests

“Andrew is old-fashioned in his scalpel-like focus, assessing what matters and what doesn’t. He is exceptional at managing people.”

“He is polished as an advocate and has good judgment.”

“A strong advocate. He is intelligent, reasonable and professional.”

“Andrew is one of the most able silks operating in this field. He is fiercely clever and is very good at getting to grips with complex facts and technical issues and distilling them into clear advice and strategy.”

Andrew is also *“highly regarded by his peers for his fair but firm approach and an extremely effective lawyer with a keen intellect. He combines a deep knowledge of the law with a pragmatic approach and excellent judgement, which make him highly sought after for inquests and public inquiries.”*

Andrew has been retained in many high-profile public inquiries and substantial inquests including starting with the Ladbrooke Grove Inquiry and the Joint Inquiry into Train Protection Systems. Since 2017, Andrew has been one of the three leading counsel to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. He is also leading counsel for the Welsh Government in the UK Covid-19 Inquiry.

Andrew has broad experience of significant inquests, particularly in relation to deaths involving members of the Armed Forces, workplace deaths and high-profile incidents such as the railway accidents at Ufton Nervet, Potters Bar and Greyrigg.

Representative Cases

- *The Grenfell Tower Inquiry*
One of three leading counsel to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry into the circumstances leading up to and including the fire on 14 June 2017 in which 71 residents of Grenfell Tower lost their lives.
- *The UK Covid-19 Inquiry*
Leading counsel for the Welsh Government in the UK Covid-19 Inquiry into national response to and

the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

- *Re Roberts & Scott*
Inquest following fatalities sustained in a helicopter crash in Kabul, Afghanistan.
- *Re Laco*
Inquest following a fatality during the construction of the Francis Crick Institute.
- *Re Gilbert & Singh*
Inquest following two fatalities during the construction of Heathrow's T5 terminal.
- *Re Ufton Nerve, Potters Bar and Greyrigg*
Inquests following railway accidents.

Public Procurement and Commercial

"His knowledge and application of the procurement rules is impressive."

"A first-rate advocate who exudes a calm assurance when advising clients. He has excellent attention to detail and is quick to understand technical issues. Although he has a first-rate understanding of procurement cases, his breadth of experience helps him keep a clear eye on the overall risks and prospects of the case."

Andrew has a well-established and broad public procurement practice and is recommended as *"a highly valued and very practical advocate"* and a *"fantastic team player who's incredibly bright and insightful"* with a *"first rate knowledge of procurement law"*. He is recommended as a leading silk in public procurement law (Legal 500) and a global leader in government contract law (Who's Who Legal).

Andrew has particular experience in defence, maritime and transport-related procurement as well as disputes arising from NHS contracts (including PFI agreements) and large-scale regeneration projects. He also has expertise in the procurement and state aid aspects of European Structural Funds and related issues arising from the United Kingdom's EU Withdrawal Agreement.

Andrew is a member of the Procurement Lawyers Association.

Representative Cases

- *MSI-Defence Systems v. Secretary of State for Defence*
Acting for the Secretary of State in a challenge to the award of a contract for the provision of a naval gun system.
- *Blue Water Recoveries Ltd v. Secretary of State for Transport*
Acting for the Secretary of State in a challenge to the award of a contract for the salvage of silver bullion.
- *In the matter of various rail franchises*
Advising the Secretary of State for Transport on the merits of various challenges to the award of certain rail franchises.

Administrative and Public Law

“He is an intellectual powerhouse.”

“His broad practice provides him with a very broad perspective when advising on public law matters and as a result provides very sensible advice on strategy and prospects. Andrew is fiercely bright and picks up issues very quickly”.

Described as *“academically and intellectually strong; forceful in Court”* and *“exceptional in his advice and in his attitude. He is enormously good to deal with, prompt, positive and fun”*. Before taking silk, Andrew was Junior Counsel to the Crown (A Panel) and a member of the Welsh Government’s Public Law A Panel. He is now a member of the Welsh Government’s KC Panel and is regularly instructed by the Government Legal Department.

Representative Cases

- *The Queen (Kingston-upon-Hull City Council) v Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills [2016] EWHC 1064 (Admin)*
Consideration of the lawfulness of advice given under the primary authority scheme.
- *The Queen (Wilson) v Secretary of State for Transport [2015] EWHC 2330 (Admin)*
Challenge to the implementation of the Maritime Labour Convention into domestic law.
- *The Queen (Main) v Minister for Legal Aid [2007] EWHC 742 (Admin)*
Availability of legal aid for inquests.
- *The Queen (Western Riverside Waste Authority) v London Borough of Wandsworth [2005] EWHC 536 (Admin)*
Waste collection authority’s power to fix tariff.
- *The Queen (Hancock) v Welsh Ministers*
Challenge relating to power to recover overpayments made to dentists.
- *The Queen (Leavesley) v UKBA*
Challenge to decision to award contract for storage of seized goods.
- *Implants International Ltd v European Commission (Case C-279/06)*
Reimbursement of money paid under a European research and development grant.

Health & Safety

“He is very competent, concise, focused, clear and analytical.”

“A silk who fights his client’s corner”.

“Andrew is an excellent advocate, presenting his oral arguments with great clarity”.

“He’s very, very knowledgeable in health and safety law and has a lot of experience”.

Andrew is recommended as a *“silk who fights his client’s corner”* and is described as having *“an eye for detail and really gets to the heart of the issue”*; *“he puts his clients at ease, and never fails to impress them with his insightful advice and commercial approach”* and *“calm and thorough, and good with clients”*. Although he has particular experience in the mining, construction, rail and road transport and food industries, Andrew is instructed on a range of employer’s liability and related health and safety claims and prosecutions. He is also regularly retained in claims relating to industrial diseases as well as claims arising from accidents at work, mesothelioma, asbestosis and hazardous claims, fatal accidents and inquests.

Andrew was appointed as one of the lead counsel to the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry and is leading counsel acting for the Welsh Government in the UK Covid-19 Inquiry.

Representative Cases

- *The UK Covid-19 Inquiry*
Leading counsel for the Welsh Government in the UK Covid-19 Inquiry into national response to and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- *Grenfell Tower Inquiry (2017-)*
Andrew is one of the lead Counsel to the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry.
- *AgChemAccess Ltd v Health & Safety Executive*
Claim for damages arising from the withdrawal of enforcement notices.
- *GRW Ltd v Health & Safety Executive*
Claim for judicial review relating to advice given to the Secretary of State for Transport.
- *Amazing Ventures Ltd v Covent Garden Market Authority*
Multi-million civil claim relating to asbestos exposure.
- *Office of Rail Regulation v Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd*
Acting for the company in respect of a collision between track maintenance equipment and a high speed train in the approach to Paddington station.
- *HSE v Bison Manufacturing Ltd*
Prosecution arising from a fatality involving a haulier.
- *Re Sivyer Transport [2014] UKUT 483*
Advising and representing various licence-holders in Public Inquiries before the Traffic Commissioner and in appeals before the Transport Tribunal and, now, the Upper Tribunal.
- *HSE v Laing O'Rourke Construction*
Prosecution arising from serious injury on large construction site in South Wales.
- *HSE v Laing O'Rourke Construction (Midlands) Ltd*
Prosecution arising from the fall of ½ tonne of scaffolding from the 40th floor of a hotel in Birmingham city centre.

- *HSE v Veolia PLC*
Prosecution arising from a fatality during the course of road reinstatement works.
- *HSE v Southern Gas Networks Ltd*
Prosecution arising from a fatality during the course of road reinstatement works.
- *HSE v Select Cranes Ltd*
Prosecution arising from the collapse of a crane.
- *HSE v Crown House Technologies Ltd*
Prosecution relating to a fatality caused by the discharge of pressurised Argonite gas cylinders.
- *Miners' Knee Group Litigation*
Group action brought by former miners alleging that various breaches of health and safety legislation caused them to suffer from osteoarthritis of the knee.
- *The British Coal Respiratory Disease Litigation*
Group action brought by former and present miners alleging that exposure to substantial quantities of coal dust had caused various respiratory conditions.
- *The Phurnacite Litigation*
Acting in litigation following determination of the lead cases in relation to the Phurnacite plant in South Wales.
- *British Coke Workers Litigation*
Group action concerning alleged exposure of coke workers to various hazardous substances in UK coke plants.

Environmental Law

Andrew has been recommended in environmental law as “*an insightful and practical advocate*” and “*a first-rate barrister; he is able to see the key issues and clients absolutely love his approach*”. Andrew advises on all regulatory aspects of environmental legislation, in particular the obligations of waste disposal and collection authorities, as well as acting for public bodies and companies in civil and criminal proceedings arising from the use of land, including the contamination of land. Andrew has also represented public authorities in relation to infringement proceedings brought by the European Commission in environmental matters.

Representative Cases

- *The Queen (Western Riverside Waste Authority) v London Borough of Wandsworth [2005] EWHC 536 (Admin)*
Waste collection authority’s power to fix tariff.
- *The Queen (West London Waste Authority) v Mayor of London*
Challenge to Mayor’s failure to consult under the Greater London Assembly Act 1999.

- *Environment Agency v Abbey Metal Finishing Ltd*
Prosecution of company arising from pollution of river Anker by cyanides following a fire.
- *Environment Agency v Railtrack PLC*
Prosecution relating to diesel pollution of river.
- *Environment Agency v Elite Hotels*
Prosecution of hotel chain in respect of recycling of packaging.
- *Environment Agency v FD Todd & Sons*
Prosecution of waste carrier relating to deposit of food waste.

What the directories say

"He has a natural and friendly charisma about him that allows people to feel at ease."
Chambers UK 2025

"Andrew enchants clients and courts."
Chambers UK 2025

"He has such a lovely way of dealing with witnesses and is very good on the advocacy."
Chambers UK 2025

"Andrew Kinnier is very efficient, effective and good at getting to the heart of issues."
Chambers UK 2025

"He is highly accessible and user-friendly."
Chambers UK 2025

"Andrew has a good grasp and intelligence of the legal and commercial issues."
Chambers UK 2025

"He addresses the key issues."
Chambers UK 2025

"He is an extremely efficient advocate."
Chambers UK 2025

"Andrew is a very thorough and balanced practitioner."
Chambers UK 2025

"Andrew is deeply thoughtful and highly practical at the same time."
Chambers UK 2025

"Andrew has excellent product liability expertise."
Chambers UK 2025

"Andrew is intelligent and has a good grasp of both the legal and commercial issues."
Chambers UK 2025

"An absolutely fantastic silk who is erudite, sophisticated and charming with clients."
Chambers UK 2025

"He is supportive, client-friendly, approachable and hard-working."
Chambers UK 2025

"Andrew is a tremendously reassuring and able counsel."
Chambers UK 2025

"Andrew is a rarity among KCs, he is ultra-approachable with clients and queries. Yet, when it comes to the court he is a goliath of an advocate. During cross-examination, he can gain the trust of a witness, only to unleash a serrated edge when the next witness in line is obstructive."
Legal 500 2025

"An extremely bright lawyer with excellent judgement."
Legal 500 2025

"Andrew is quick to grasp the issues and to provide clear practical advice to clients."
Legal 500 2025

"Great to work with. Encyclopaedic knowledge and experience and good with clients."
Legal 500 2025

"A strong advocate. He is intelligent, reasonable and professional."
Legal 500 2024

"His knowledge and application of the procurement rules is impressive."
Legal 500 2024

"Andrew's advice was extremely clear, thorough and most importantly commercial so that the client understood clearly the parameters within which it had to work."
Legal 500 2024

"Andrew is user-friendly and has a very nice manner in court. He is a skilful advocate."
Chambers UK 2024

"Andrew is responsive, strategic and practical."
Chambers UK 2024

"He is very competent, concise, focused, clear and analytical."
Chambers UK 2024

"He is very focused, clear and analytical."
Chambers UK 2024

"Andrew is old fashioned in his scalpel-like focus, assessing what matters and what doesn't. He is exceptional at managing people."
Chambers UK 2024

"He is polished as an advocate, and has good judgement."
Chambers UK 2024

"Genuinely faultless. He is always well prepared, calm and pragmatic."
Chambers UK 2024

"A skilful advocate."
Chambers UK 2024

"really bright, nice to deal with, and on the ball" "very hard-working and a first class brain."

' His broad practice provides him with a broad perspective when advising on public law matters and as a result provides very sensible advice on strategy and prospect. Andrew is fiercely bright and picks up issues very quickly. '

Legal 500 2023

'Andrew is extremely capable. He gets straight to the heart of an issue, and his advocacy is concise and effective.'

Legal 500 2023

'Andrew has a first rate knowledge of procurement law.'

Legal 500 2023

Andrew is a clear, forceful and utterly charming advocate. He reads the court very well and quickly builds an effective rapport with the bench.'

Legal 500 2023

"Andrew is one of the most able silks operating in this field. He is fiercely clever and is very good at getting to grips with complex facts and technical issues and distilling them into clear advice and strategy."

Chambers UK 2023

"Andrew is an excellent silk who makes time for clients and gives clear advice."

Chambers UK 2023

"Andrew is intelligent, focused and efficient."

Chambers UK 2023

"He is an excellent advocate, presenting his oral arguments with great clarity."

Chambers UK 2023

"Andrew provided really clear written advice."

Chambers UK 2023

"Andrew is very good on paper."

Chambers UK 2023

"His broad practice provides him with a broad perspective when advising on public law matters and as a result provides very sensible advice on strategy and prospect. Andrew is fiercely bright and picks up issues very quickly."

Legal 500 2022

"Andrew is an excellent negotiator, and is personable and gets things done. Strong on his feet."

Legal 500 2022

"Andrew is very knowledgeable. He is calm, sensible, and a good team player."
Legal 500 2022

"Calm, unflappable, straight talking. One of my go-to leaders on complex cases because he is intellectual and strategic."
Legal 500 2022

"He is bright, insightful and a great team player."
Chambers UK 2022

"He gets through witnesses very quickly, he's very efficient in his approach and he stands his ground."
Chambers UK 2022

"He is bright, able and fearless."
Chambers UK 2022

"He is a first-rate advocate."
Legal 500 2021

"Highly regarded by his peers for his fair but firm approach and an extremely effective lawyer with a keen intellect. He combines a deep knowledge of the law with a pragmatic approach and excellent judgement, which make him highly sought after for inquests and public inquiries."
Legal 500 2021

"A first-rate advocate who exudes a calm assurance when advising clients. He has excellent attention to detail and is quick to understand technical issues. Although he has a first-rate understanding of procurement cases, his breadth of experience helps him keep a clear eye on the overall risks and prospects of the case."
Legal 500 2021

"A very bright and charming silk, who is great with judges and clients. Unassuming but with a core of steel. He recognises that sometimes the fight is what you have to do to achieve your strategic goals."
Legal 500 2021

"He's terrific to work with, very accommodating and has a great manner with clients. He has an encyclopedic knowledge of similar cases and what has gone before the particular judge involved."
Chambers UK 2021

"He's an excellent barrister."
Chambers UK 2021

"He's very, very knowledgeable in health and safety law and has a lot of experience."
Chambers UK 2021

"He's incredibly bright, very hard-working and has very good judgement."
Chambers UK 2021

"He is very experienced and brings that knowledge to all aspects of his work. He is accessible, responsive and inspires trust."
Chambers UK 2020

"An insightful and practical advocate."
Legal 500 2020

"A silk who fights his client's corner."
Legal 500 2020

"He is an intellectual powerhouse."
Legal 500 2020

"He is phenomenally committed to the cause of the client."
Legal 500 2020

Appointments

- Deputy High Court Judge (2023)
- King's Counsel (QC 2018)
- Lead Counsel to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry (2017)
- Attorney General's Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown, A Panel (2011-2018)
- Attorney General's Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown, B Panel (2008-2011)
- Welsh Government KC Panel (2018)
- Junior Counsel to the Welsh Government (A Panel – Public Law) (2012-2018)
- Junior Counsel to the Welsh Government (Public Law Panel) (2009-2012)

Publications

- Contributor to Halsbury's Laws of England (Volume 37)

- Contributor to Bullen & Leake & Jacob's Precedents and Pleadings (15th-19th editions)
- Contributor to Kluwer's International Product Law Manual (1st and 2nd editions)

Memberships

- ALBA
- Bar European Group
- Procurement Lawyers' Association
- South Eastern Circuit
- Health & Safety Lawyers' Association
- Personal Injuries Bar Association

Education

- Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge: Whittaker Scholarship; College Tripos Prizes (History and Law); Evan Lewis-Thomas Law Scholarship and Akinjide Prize
- University of Cambridge: BA (First Class Honours); MA
- Middle Temple: Queen Mother-Fox Major Scholarship

Awards & Recognitions

