



Geraint Webb QC

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Geraint Webb QC

“Outstandingly bright... and client friendly” “He is counsel to have on your side in a fight.” “A great strategist who is very cool-headed” “On his feet he is one of the best.”

- Chambers UK 2016/17

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Silk 2013

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Geraint Webb QC is recommended by Chambers UK and the Legal 500 as a leading silk in fields of (1) Product Liability, (2) Property Damage, (3) Environmental Law and (4) Insurance and Re-insurance. He has acted in many of the major group actions, mass tort claims and multiparty commercial actions of the last 20 years across a wide range of sectors, including life sciences/pharmaceuticals/medical devices, oil and gas/extractive industries, energy generation, construction, automobiles, manufacturing, food and drink, consumer goods as well as related insurance coverage disputes. His work frequently involves cross-border disputes, jurisdictional issues and international arbitrations.

Product Liability, Group Actions & Mass Tort Claims

Geraint Webb regularly acts for major producers, distributors and retailers across a wide range of sectors, including life sciences, pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, power generation and energy, construction, mining, automobile, IT and telecommunications, electronics, consumer goods and food and drink. He has advised on some of the largest product recalls of recent years.

Geraint has considerable experience of multi-party commercial product liability litigation and sale of goods cases, including the insurance coverage issues relating to such claims. He is instructed on all forms of product liability and related work, including product recalls, product safety, insurance issues, contractual exemption clauses and jurisdictional issues.

In addition to civil liability claims, he has considerable experience of advising companies in relation to investigations by regulatory authorities.

He is a co-author, with Professor John Miller, of Butterworth's Encyclopedia of Product Liability Law. Co-author: Clinical Negligence (5th Ed), Product Liability for Medicinal Products.

His group action/mass tort claims experience includes industrial disease, environmental and contamination claims.

Instructions Include

- Metal on Metal hip implants (Smith & Nephew)

- The PIP Breast Implant Litigation (BMI)
- The Avandia Litigation (GSK)
- The Acomplia Litigation (Sanofi)
- The Fetal Anti-Convulsant Litigation (Sanofi)
- Factor VIII Blood Contamination Litigation
- Clinical trial adverse reaction claims
- Medical device CJD claims
- Pharmaceutical manufacturing claims – exposure to active ingredients
- Licensing and distribution agreement claims

Food & Drink

Geraint has advised and acted in many of the UK's largest food and drink contamination and recall incidents of the past 20 years. He is regularly instructed to advise and represent major food businesses and insurers on both contentious and non-contentious matters, including regulatory compliance issues, recalls and insurance issues. He has particular experience in dealing with pan-European issues, cross-border supply chain disputes, and associated litigation and arbitrations.

Representative Cases

- *Sudan Red food contamination claims*
Acting for a food manufacturer in one of the largest UK food recalls and trading standards investigation.
- *The Para Red Litigation*
Acting for UK food manufacturer in a major food recall and trading standards investigation.
- *The Benzene Litigation*
Bacardi-Martini Beverages Ltd v Thomas Hardy Packaging Ltd [2002] 1 Lloyd's Rep 62, CA and Britvic Soft Drinks Ltd v Messer UK Ltd [2002] 2 Lloyd's Rep 368; CA.

Major Property Damage Claims

Geraint is a leading expert on major property damage claims, including fire claims, industrial plant failures and contamination claims. Such actions typically involve multiple parties and may involve related product liability and/or professional indemnity and insurance coverage issues. He regularly appears in the Technology and Construction Court in respect of such matters.

Instructions Include

- *Argos & Homebase v Leather Trade House Limited*
- *Buncefield*
- *Petrol Contamination Litigation: Western Logs Ltd v CSI Limited and Viance Ltd – timber preservative mass failure claims.*

- Gas turbine explosions/failures.
- Factory explosions.
- Various fire claims at commercial premises.
- Chemical and petrol storage tank failures.
- Ship propeller failures.
- *Mulheim Pipe Coatings GmbH v Chemetall Plc*: Gas and Oil pipeline product failure claims.
- Corrosion and metal fatigue failure.
- Industrial boiler failures, steam chemistry induced corrosion cracking etc.
- Satellite failures.

Environmental & Contamination Claims

Geraint has represented defendant corporations on a number of the largest environmental damage and contamination claims of recent years, many including mass tort claims brought by overseas claimants against parent companies and subsidiaries.

Instructions Include

- *The Bodo Litigation*: Acting for the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria in relation to claims by 15,000 Nigerian claimants.
- *The Ogale Litigation and the Bille Litigation*: Jurisdictional challenges on behalf of Royal Dutch Shell and its Nigerian subsidiary in relation to alleged oil spills claims.
- *Austin & Ors v Miller Argent (South Wales)*: Court of Appeal 2011 – alleged environmental nuisance claims arising from operation of open cast mine.
- Mass tort claims against Vedanta plc and its Zambian subsidiary in relation to alleged land contamination in Zambia arising from copper mining.
- Offshore oil spill claims.

Health & Safety, Industrial Disease, Inquests

Geraint has considerable experience of a range of employer's liability and industrial disease claims, including accidents at work, asbestosis, mesothelioma, hazardous substance exposure claims and carbon monoxide poisoning. He has acted for interested persons in a numerous inquests.

Instructions Include

- Group action/multiparty and unitary asbestos claims against asbestos producers.
- Group action/multiparty claims against corporate users of asbestos products.
- Various health and safety prosecutions.
- Numerous inquests.

Insurance & Re-insurance

Geraint has considerable experience in the field of insurance coverage disputes, especially in relation to product liability policies and property damage claims.

International Arbitration

Geraint has experience of various forms of arbitration procedures including ICC, UNCITRAL, LCIA, and ad hoc arbitrations as well as adjudications. He has dealt with many cross-border claims, claims determined under the foreign law of various countries including the laws of Germany, Italy, Spain, South Africa and Bahrain, and a variety of insurance coverage disputes.

Mediation & Alternative Dispute Resolution

Geraint qualified as a CEDR accredited mediator in 2000. He has then been instructed in a large number of mediations in relation to a wide range of commercial disputes, procurement disputes and regulatory compliance disputes. He regularly acts as a sole mediator, as a co-mediator in complex multi-party mediations, and as a representative.

What the directories say

"A good strategist in both international and domestic environmental matters."
Legal 500 2020

"He's brilliant – intellectually incredibly strong, a great strategist and a good team player."
Chambers UK 2020

"Extremely bright, very thorough in his approach and unflappable."
Legal 500 2020

"He is an amazing team-player."
Chambers UK

"Incredibly well-regarded silk with a broad commercial practice that spans property damage, insurance and product liability matters. His product liability work has seen him tackling the very highest-value and most

complex drug liability cases."
Chambers UK

"He is intellectually brilliant and has a really great way about him when on his feet."
Chambers UK

Appointments

- Deputy High Court Judge (2019)
- Queen's Counsel (2013)
- CEDR Accredited Mediator (2000)

Publications

- Contributor to: Butterworths Encyclopedia of Product Liability Law
- Contributor to: Clinical Negligence (5th Ed), Product Liability for Medicinal Products
- Halsbury's Laws – Practice and Procedure (2001)
- The Civil Practitioner's Guide to the Human Rights Act 1998

Memberships

- Commercial Bar Association
- London Common Law & Commercial Bar Association
- Procurement Lawyers Association
- Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyers
- Personal Injuries Bar Association
- British Insurance Law Association

Education

- Princess Royal Scholarship (1994)
- Inner Temple Scholarship (1993)
- BA (Oxon) First Class Honours (1992)
- Exhibitioner of Christ Church (1990)

Awards & Recognitions

