



Oliver Campbell KC

"Unbelievably able, knowledgeable advocate... carries enormous gravitas and respect in court and with clients."

- Legal 500 2025

Call	1992
Silk	2014

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Oliver Campbell KC specialises product liability, health & safety, regulatory and environmental claims. His work in those areas encompasses inquests and inquiries. He has particular expertise in group and representative actions, including multi-party product liability and data breach claims. For the last decade he has been engaged in many of the largest and most significant cases in those fields.

Notable cases in which Oliver has been retained over the last three years include: the Diesel NOx emissions litigation, a series of group actions brought by over a million consumers against several vehicle manufacturers; the Grenfell Inquiry; the Google 'Safari Workaround' litigation; the TSB / Whistletree Group Action; the Equiniti group action; the Metal on Metal hip litigation; the MPM/Eastbourne pier gross negligence manslaughter prosecution; and the British Cycling prosecution.

Oliver is recommended by the legal directories as a leading silk in the fields of: health & safety, product liability, group actions, inquests and public inquiries, and environmental claims. He was awarded 'health and safety silk of the year' at the Chambers UK Bar Awards 2022 and has been listed by Legal Week as one of the top-rated members of the bar. He was described by the Legal 500 as an: *"outstanding advocate at the highest level. Very thorough and skilful strategist. Very reliable in all areas of industry and services."*

In the field of product liability and group litigation, the Legal 500 commented that Oliver is: *"without doubt one of the standout silks in this space, absolutely at the top of his game. He has a deep strategic insight into group cases and the behaviour of defendants, and a clarity of thought that cuts through the strategic complexity. He is a brilliant advocate with a lovely relaxed style"*. Chambers and Partners say that: *"he is an enormously reassuring presence in difficult situations and his written work and oral advocacy are outstanding"* and *"he is unflappable, calm and measured."*

In relation to his health & safety and regulatory expertise, Oliver has been described in the Legal Directories as being: *"a formidable barrister"*; *"a great tactician, especially with expert evidence"*; *"an incredibly smooth and persuasive advocate"*; *"really immersed in the area"*; *"an outstanding performer"*; *"very good at inspiring confidence in clients"*; *"extremely intelligent"*; and *"someone who handles complex and sensitive cases extremely well"*.

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.

Please [click here](#) for a copy of Oliver Campbell's privacy policy.

Health & Safety

Oliver has been involved in many of the highest-profile and most significant health and safety prosecutions of the last 20 years. He is the chair of Henderson Chambers health and safety practice group, and his practice encompasses all aspects of health and safety and regulatory litigation, representing both companies and individuals prosecuted for health and safety and other regulatory offences.

Oliver is recommended as a leading silk for health & safety cases by the Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners (band 1 in both). He has twice been shortlisted for health and safety silk of the year, and won this award at the Chambers UK Bar Awards 2022 (having previously won health and safety junior of the year). He was a founder member of the Health and Safety Lawyers' Association and was on the executive committee for many years.

Oliver has particular expertise in manslaughter and other health safety prosecutions arising from fatalities. Recent cases in which he has successfully defended defendants at trial include: one of the defendants in the MPM / Eastbourne pier trial (a gross negligence manslaughter case); one of the defendants in the BMI hospital prosecution; one of the defendants in the British Cycling prosecution; the operators of Tilbury Docks following a serious accident; a well-known crane hire company; and an NHS Trust in a prosecution arising out of a fatal accident to one of its employees.

His experience spans many different industries and sectors. These have included prosecutions arising from accidents at construction sites, accidents at sea, in hospitals and care homes, in docks, in nurseries and schools, from electrical and other fires, and from road and railway accidents.

Oliver has appeared in the Court of Appeal on several occasions in health and safety cases. He appeared in *R v Sellafeld and Network Rail (CA)*, the leading authority on sentencing of large companies, and *Ashted Plant Hire (CA)* in relation to the application of the Electricity at Work Regulations.

Representative Cases

- *HSE v AFE & BMI (2023)*
Successful defence following a 6 week trial of charges resulting from a fatal electrocution of an employee in a hospital kitchen.
- *The Grenfell Inquiry (ongoing)*
Acting for one of the corporate core participants.
- *R v AJM Services and Pearsons Glass (2022)*
Prosecution arising from a fatal accident during construction work to a factory roof.
- *ORR v Volker Rail (2022)*
Prosecution by the ORR following a trench collapse in which a worker was crushed.

- *R v Dixon, Hawkins and MPM (2021)*
Successful defence of a manslaughter prosecution following a 3 month trial. The prosecution arose from a fatal accident during repair works to Eastbourne pier.
- *R v British Cycling and Marsden (2018)*
5 week trial following a fatal accident at a down-hill mountain bike event in Wales. First prosecution of its kind against a sporting governing body and the organiser of a cycling event. Oliver acted for the organiser of the event who was found not guilty by a jury.
[Link to news item and press coverage here](#)
- *R v Paramount and eReco (2018)*
Prosecution arising from a massive explosion at a plant for recycling toner cartridges, which led to multiple injuries. Oliver acted for the manufacturers of the recycling plant
[Link to press coverage here](#)
- *R v York House Meat (2018)*
Acting for large company in a trial Luton Crown Court following a fatal accident at a meat processing plant.
- *Pret a Manger Inquest (2018)*
Pret a Manger. Oliver acting for Pret in this very high profile case following the death of a 15 year old girl who suffered an allergic reaction after eating a baguette purchased from Pret.
[Link to press coverage here](#)
- *R v Pickering (2017)*
Acting for managing director prosecuted following a fatal accident to a worker electrocuted by an overhead line.
- *Grenfell Inquiry (2017-)*
Oliver is acting for a Core Participant involved in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.
- *R v Sellafield & Network Rail [2014] EWCA Crim 49*
Sentencing of large companies for regulatory offences.
- *Berry v Star Autos (Court of Appeal) [2011] EWCA Civ 1304*
Application of the Electricity at Work Regulations.
- *Wandsworth v Covent Garden Market Authority (QBD) [2011] EWHC 1245*
Appeals against improvement notices.
- *Collett v Middlesbrough Football Club (Court of Appeal) [2009] EWCA Civ 583*
- *Corus v Cavendish UK (QBD) [2009] EWHC 2058*
Liability in respect of asbestos removal work.
- *R (Main) v Minsiter for Legal Aid (Admin) (2007) 96 BMLR 61*
Availability of legal aid for inquests.

- *Cameron v Network Rail (QBD) [2007] 1 WLR 163*
Whether the Fatal Accidents Acts complies with Article 2 and whether Network Rail is a public authority for the purpose of Human Rights Act.
- *R v Railtrack & Others*
Prosecution arising out of the Hatfield train crash.
- *Morris v Network Rail (Court of Appeal) [2004] EWCA Civ 172*
Liability in nuisance for interference caused by electrical equipment.
- *Roshdi v Thames Trains (Court of Appeal) [2002] All ER (D) 284*
Grants of an adjournment on refusal of public funding.
- *Winch v Mid Bedfordshire District Council (QBD)[2002] All ER (D) 380*
Liability of local authorities in nuisance for acts of gypsies in an official gypsy site.
- *Craig v Railtrack (QBD) [2002] All ER (D) 212*
Granting of indemnity costs under CPR 36.
- *Worrall v British Railways Board (Court of Appeal)[1999] All ER (D) 455*
Application of the ex turpi causa principle.
- *Basildon District Council v Railtrack Plc (Divisional Court) The Times 27.02.98*
Requirements as to notices in health and safety prosecutions.

Product Liability

Oliver is a leading specialist in product liability claims and has been retained in many of the largest product liability and group actions of recent years. These include: the Dieselgate NOx Emissions Group Actions (acting for over a million consumers in actions against VW, Mercedes, BMW, Ford, Renault and other manufacturers); the Metal on Metal Hip Litigation; the OCENSA pipeline group action; the Lariam Litigation; the Para Red litigation; and the Sudan Red litigation (acting for one of the defendants in the largest food recall in UK history).

He is ranked in Band 1 by both Chambers and Partners and the Legal 500 as a leading silk for product liability claims. Chambers and Partners commented in relation to his product liability expertise that he “*is a particularly good trial advocate who is forensically deadly, but also someone with a very affable personality*” as well as being “...fiercely clever...unbelievably clear and makes difficult points in a simple manner”. The Legal 500 commented that he is “*without doubt one of the standout silks in this space, absolutely at the top of his game. He has a clarity of thought that cuts through the strategic complexity. He is a brilliant advocate with a lovely relaxed style*”.

Oliver regularly advises in relation to claims under the Consumer Protection Act; property damage claims; product testing and product recall issues; cross border, jurisdiction and applicable law issues; contractual exemption clauses; and coverage and insurance issues associated with product liability claims.

He has considerable experience acting on behalf of the food and drink industries, including in relation to allergen issues.

He is an editor of the “International Product Law Manual” and a contributor to Halsbury’s Laws of England.

Representative Cases

- *VW NOx Emissions Group Litigation*

Group action against VW, Audi, Seat and Skoda. Various decisions including:

- *Crossley v Volkswagen Aktiengesellschaft*[2021] EWHC 344 (QB): Refusal to strike out claim in deceit, and consideration of need for awareness of representations.
- *Crossley v Volkswagen Aktiengesellschaft*[2020] EWHC 783 (QB): Trial of a preliminary issue within VW NOx Emissions Litigation as to meaning of “defeat device” in EU legislation.
- *Crossley v Volkswagen Aktiengesellschaft*[2019] EWHC 698 (QB): Determination of an application for a preliminary issues trial in VW NOx Emissions Litigation.

- *Lloyd v Google* [2021] UKSC 50

- *Mercedes and BMW Emissions Litigation*

- *Metal on Metal Hip Litigation*

- *OCENSA Pipeline Group Litigation*

- *Poole v Simon Wright Racing Developments*

Claim in respect of alleged design defects in a go-kart.

- *The Sudan Red Food Litigation*

- *Hobson v Morton Slack Solicitors (QBD)* [2006] All ER (D) 298

Procedure for applications for group litigation orders.

- *Vinaver v Milton Ashbury Ltd (Court of Appeal)* [2006] EWCA Civ 363

- *The Para Red Litigation*

- *Trac Time Control v Moss Plastic Parts (QBD)* [2005] All ER (D) 6

- *The Lariam Litigation*

Group Actions

Oliver has very extensive experience of acting for both claimants and defendants in group actions and other collective and multi-party claims. He is ranked in Band 1 by both the Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners for Group Actions.

Oliver is leading counsel for the claimants in the Dieseltgate NOx emissions litigation. This litigation comprises a series of group actions against vehicle manufacturers which are now being dealt with collectively by the High Court. It is thought to be the largest consumer claim brought in the UK, with approximately 1.3 million claimants bringing claims against 16 vehicle manufacturers.

Oliver also acted for the defendants (BP) in the OCENSA Litigation, a 5 month trial of a group action relating to a pipeline in Colombia before Mr Justice Stuart-Smith.

Oliver appeared in *Lloyd v Google* (Supreme Court), the leading case on representative actions and data privacy.

He has acted in several group claims involving financial products and services, including the TSB / Whistletree group claim, and the Lloyds HBOS group action.

Oliver has also acted in many group and collective data protections claims, including: the EasyJet claim; the Equifax claim; the Equiniti claim and the Ticketmaster claim.

His experience in this area also includes environmental and pollution claims (for example, the OCENSA pipeline group action); pharmaceutical and medicinal product claims (for example, the Lariam group litigation); claims by shareholders (for example, the Lloyds HBOS group action); claims arising from large accidents and disasters (for example, the claims following the Stafford rail crash); and claims arising from professional negligence and mis-selling of financial products (for example, the coal miners claims).

According to the Legal 500: “Oliver is without doubt one of the standout silks in this space, absolutely at the top of his game. He has a deep strategic insight into group cases and the behaviour of defendants, and a clarity of thought that cuts through the strategic complexity. He is a brilliant advocate with a lovely relaxed style that judges appreciate.” Chambers & Partners comment that: “*He is encyclopaedic in his knowledge, very experienced and knows the procedural ropes very well*” and that “*he is an enormously reassuring presence in difficult situations and his written work and oral advocacy are outstanding*”, as well as being “*unflappable, calm and measured*”.

Inquests and Public Inquiries

Oliver has acted in many major inquests and public inquiries. Examples include: the Grenfell Inquiry; the Scout Association Inquest; the Natasha Ednan-Laperouse / Pret a Manger inquest; the inquests into the Potters Bar and Ufton Nervet rail accidents; the inquest in relation to the Basildon hospital legionella outbreaks; the Bridgewater Place inquest; the Vauxhall tower helicopter crash inquest; and the inquest into the Avonmouth bridge disaster. He also acted in *R (Maguire) v Coroner for West Yorkshire* (2018)(CA), a decision of the Lord Chief Justice in relation to an inquest into the death of a teacher murdered by one of her pupils.

He is recognised by the Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners as a leading silk for inquests and public inquiries. The Legal 500 commented in relation to his inquest and inquiry expertise that he is “*Unbelievably able, knowledgeable advocate and carries enormous gravitas and respect in court and with clients.*” Chambers and Partners commented that “*He is an enormously skilled advocate and clients love him.*”

Representative Cases

- *The Scout Association (2022)*
High profile inquest into the death of scout who fell from a cliff during a scouting trip.
- *Andrew Cook (2021)*
Inquest into the death of a patient who was alleged to have suffered an allergic reaction to the polymer coating of a widely sold catheter during a cardiac procedure.
- *Dritan Quema (2021)*
Inquest into the death of a rail worker. He was working on a zero hours contract, and the death was alleged to be caused by fatigue.
- *R (Maguire) v Assistant Coroner for West Yorkshire [2018] EWCA Civ 6*
Decision by the Lord Chief Justice re calling child witnesses in an inquest.
- *Pret a Manger (2018)*
Pret a Manger. Oliver acting for Pret in this very high profile case following the death of a 15 year old girl who suffered an allergic reaction after eating a baguette purchased from Pret.
[Link to press coverage here](#)
- *Signature Living / Titanic Hotel (2018)*
Case arising from a fatal accident at the Titanic Hotel in Liverpool (former headquarters of the White Star Line). Customer fell over an historic (but low) bannister; dispute as to whether the bannister ought to have been changed dispute the heritage status. Oliver is acting for the owners of the hotel.
[Link to press coverage here](#)
- *Grenfell Inquiry (2017-)*
Oliver is acting for a Core Participant involved in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

Environment

Oliver has considerable experience of both criminal and civil environmental, nuisance, waste management and pollution claims.

He is recognised by Chambers & Partners as a leading silk for environmental claims with the comment that “*He is fiercely clever, unbelievably clear and makes really difficult points in a very simple way.*”

He has regularly represented defendants charged with offences under the Environmental Protection Act and the Environmental Permitting Regulations. He also has extensive experience of civil environmental and pollution claims, including nuisance, land contamination and flooding claims. That experience encompasses many different types of land use and activity, including oil pipelines, construction sites, waste sites, railway infrastructure and harbours.

Oliver represented one of the corporate defendants in the Marks and Spencer asbestos prosecution, and successfully defended a claim in relation to asbestos removal from the Corus headquarters building. He

represented BP in a 5 month trial of an environmental group action in relation to an oil pipeline built in Colombia (the OCENSA pipeline group litigation). He represented the director of a waste management company, following a fire at a waste management site in Swindon site that burned for over 60 days. He also acted for Network Rail in noise nuisance proceedings relating to the Reading train care depot.

What the directories say

"He has a precise, calm and steady manner when advocating on complex and tricky points of law."
Chambers UK 2025

"He's very commercial."
Chambers UK 2025

"Oliver takes everything in his stride and provides very pragmatic advice."
Chambers UK 2025

"Oliver is totally impressive."
Chambers UK 2025

"He is fiercely clever, unbelievably clear and makes really difficult points in a very simple way."
Chambers UK 2025

"I think that he is absolutely excellent."
Chambers UK 2025

"He is unbelievably clear and makes really difficult points in a very simple way."
Chambers UK 2025

"Oliver is absolutely excellent."
Chambers UK 2025

"He takes everything in his stride and he provides very pragmatic advice."
Chambers UK 2025

"Oliver is somebody who is able to provide advice that is very pragmatic and he is unflappable."

Chambers UK 2025

"He is encyclopedic in his knowledge, very experienced and knows the procedural ropes very well."
Chambers UK 2025

"Oliver is brilliant."
Chambers UK 2025

"Oliver is another great tactician, especially with expert evidence."
Chambers UK 2025

"He keeps things straightforward and achieves good results."
Chambers UK 2025

"Oliver Campbell is a top choice."
Chambers UK 2025

"Oliver Campbell is really great with clients and on his feet."
Chambers UK 2025

"He is an enormously skilled advocate and clients love him."
Chambers UK 2025

"Oliver is a very measured advocate."
Chambers UK 2025

"Oliver is unflappable and able to provide pragmatic advice."
Chambers UK 2025

"Oliver is a formidable opponent."
Chambers UK 2025

"Oliver is fiercely clever but is quite humble with it. He is unbelievably clear and makes difficult points in a simple manner."
Chambers UK 2025

"Oliver is without doubt one of the standout silks in this space, absolutely at the top of his game. He has a

deep strategic insight into group cases and the behaviour of defendants, and a clarity of thought that cuts through the strategic complexity. He is a brilliant advocate with a lovely relaxed style that judges appreciate."
Legal 500 2025

"A formidable barrister who is level-headed and tenacious."
Legal 500 2025

"He is without doubt one of the standout silks in this space, absolutely at the top of his game. He has a clarity of thought that cuts through the strategic complexity. He is a brilliant advocate with a lovely relaxed style."
Legal 500 2025

"Oliver is fantastic in the detail - analytical and very well prepared. That translates to impressive factual recall and impressive performance in court."
Chambers UK 2024

"He is an excellent and strategic advocate. He has great attention to detail and is fantastic with clients."
Chambers UK 2024

"Oliver is very good and very polite."
Chambers UK 2024

"Oliver is very good on his feet, dealing with a very difficult coroner. He's strong on the law."
Chambers UK 2024

"Oliver is a good strategist, who has a good success rate."
Chambers UK 2024

"Oliver is a wonderful barrister to work with, incredibly hard-working, with intellect like no other and completely unflappable."
Chambers UK 2024

"Oliver's advocacy is first-rate; he is a really measured advocate."
Chambers UK 2024

"Outstanding advocate at the highest level. Very thorough and skillful strategist. Very reliable in all areas of industry and services."
Legal 500 2024

"An outstanding advocate, and a very thorough and skillful strategist."
Legal 500 2024

"An unflappable advocate who is extremely astute and provides pragmatic advice."
Legal 500 2024

"Oliver is an unflappable advocate who is extremely astute. He provides pragmatic advice and is adept at advising on complex group litigation matters."
Legal 500 2024

"Oliver is an unflappable advocate who is extremely astute. He provides pragmatic advice and is adept at advising on complex group litigation matters. He is incredibly approachable and very easy to work with."
Legal 500 2024

"An exceptional advocate who provides first-rate tactical and commercial advice."
Chambers UK 2023

"He has a meticulous attention to detail, a thorough grasp of the law and procedural issues, and compelling and persuasive advocacy which commands the respect of the court."
Legal 500 2023

"An excellent tactician and a clear and concise advocate in his cross-examination."
Legal 500 2023

"Oliver is highly skilled in technically complex cases and matters involving considerable detail. He is also highly persuasive before both judge and jury."
Legal 500 2023

"He has a wealth of experience in product liability disputes and group litigation and provides very pragmatic advice."
Legal 500 2023

"He has a big market presence and a very good reputation."
Chambers UK 2022

"A dogged advocate who has great judgement."
Chambers UK 2022

"Focused, very analytical, and clients like him a lot. He is also very commercial and a pleasure to work with."
Chambers UK 2022

"A top-notch barrister."
Chambers UK 2022

"He is an enormously reassuring presence in difficult situations and his written work and oral advocacy are outstanding."
Chambers UK 2022

"He is unflappable, calm and measured."
Chambers UK 2022

"Oliver is a superb tactician, very good at cross examining experts and I think in the health and safety field is the best at written advocacy."
Legal 500 2022

"Unflappable and an excellent advocate."
Legal 500 2022

"An unflappable advocate who has a formidable, highly forensic mind combined with a faultless approach to managing the strategic issues of a case."
Legal 500 2022

"A great tactician and a first-rate advocate. Oliver's ability to see to the heart of an issue is always immediately appreciated."
Legal 500 2022

"An excellent advocate." "He is calm under pressure, very self-assured and understated." "His written advocacy is the best I have ever seen. He makes superb arguments."
Chambers UK 2021

"He's excellent - technically highly skilled, polished in court and very easy to work with." "He's smart, personable and a very good advocate."
Chambers UK 2021

"He has a huge amount of inquest experience."
Chambers UK 2021

"He is one of the leading health and safety silks. He is a formidable tactician and a measured advocate who is particularly good at cross-examining experts. His written advocacy is superb."

Legal 500 2021

"Always my first choice for inquests and inquiries. He has an excellent grasp of detail and a dogged determination to achieve outstanding results."

Legal 500 2021

"He has great client care skills, insight and a razor-sharp intellect, and he is an exceptional tactician."

Legal 500 2021

"Forensically brilliant, an excellent trial lawyer. He has a nice unassuming manner, but tough with opponents when needs to be."

Legal 500 2021

"He focuses on the case at hand, gets a full and detailed grasp of the issues, and has a deep knowledge of the law and a very good sense of how to tactically manage difficult issues."

Chambers UK 2020

"Oliver focuses on the case in hand and gets a full and detailed grasp of the issues. He has a deep knowledge of the law and a very good sense of how tactically to manage difficult issues."

Chambers UK 2020

"A stellar performer."

Legal 500 2020

"Top class: measured and reliable."

Legal 500 2020

"An outstanding advocate who shows attention to detail and expertise."

Legal 500 2020

"Hardworking and diligent; an excellent trial lawyer."

Legal 500 2020

"An incredibly incisive advocate, who has very good judgement."

Chambers UK 2014

Appointments

- Recorder (Crown Court, 2020)
- King's Counsel (QC 2014)
- Chief Examiner for the BPTC (2015-2019)
- Trustee of the Lambeth Law Centre (2010-2019)
- President of the Oxford Union (1990)
- BSB's panel of advocates

Publications

- Contributor to Halsbury's Laws of England
- Contributing Editor to the "International Product Law Manual"
- Editor of the personal injury section of "The Lawyers Factbook"

Memberships

- Health & Safety Lawyers' Association
- Commercial Bar Association
- London Common Law & Commercial Bar Association
- Personal Injuries Bar Association

Education

- Advocacy Prize, Inns of Court School of Law (1992)
- MA in Law, Oxford

Awards & Recognitions

