



Oliver Campbell QC

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Oliver Campbell QC

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

- Chambers UK 2014

Call 1992
Silk 2014

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Oliver Campbell QC specialises in health & safety, product liability, regulatory and environmental claims. His work in those areas encompasses inquests and inquiries. He also has a particular expertise in group 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.

Cases in which he has been retained over the last two years include: the VW NOx Emissions litigation; the Metal on Metal hip litigation; the Grenfell Inquiry; the Google 'Safari Workaround' litigation; the Network Rail and Sellafield sentencing appeals; the OCENSA pipeline litigation; and the British Cycling prosecution.

Oliver is recommended by the legal directories as a leading silk in the fields of health & safety, product liability, environment, and inquests and inquiries. He has twice been short-listed as health and safety silk of the year at the Chambers UK Bar Awards, and has been listed by Legal Week as one of the top rated members of the bar.

In relation to his health & safety and regulatory expertise, Oliver has been described in the Legal Directories as being *"a stellar performer"*; *"an incredibly smooth and persuasive advocate"*; *"really immersed in the area"*; *"an outstanding performer"*; *"very good at inspiring confidence in clients"*; *"has a razor sharp mind"*; is *"extremely intelligent"* and is *"someone who handles complex and sensitive cases extremely well"*.

In the field of product liability, the Legal 500 and Chambers UK have commented that Oliver: *"is a particularly good trial advocate who is forensically deadly, but also someone with a very affable personality"*; *"is absolutely tip-top and shows a deft touch in court that is as good as you would see anywhere at the Bar"*; is *"an excellent trial advocate, persuasive in court"*; and that he *"has a commercial approach and ability to find the right solution for the client"*.

Health & Safety

Oliver has been involved in many of the highest-profile and most significant health and safety prosecutions over the last 10 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 has particular expertise in manslaughter prosecutions and other health safety prosecutions arising from fatalities. He successfully defended one of the individual defendants in the prosecution resulting from the Hatfield train crash. More recent cases include successfully defending at trial: 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.

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

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

- *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. Those include: the Metal on Metal Hip Litigation; the VW NOx Emissions Group Litigation; the OCENSA pipeline group action; the Lariam Litigation; the Para Red litigation;

and Sudan Red litigation (the largest food recall in UK history).

He is recognised by Chambers and Partners and the Legal 500 as a leading silk for product liability claims. Chambers and Partners (2019) 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*”. The Legal 500 (2019) commented that he is “*an excellent trial advocate, persuasive in court*”.

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 Litigation*
- *Metal on Metal Hip Litigation*
- *OCENSA Pipeline Group Litigation*
- *Poole v Simon Wright Racing Developments [2013] EWHC 237*
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*

Environment

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

He is recognised by the legal directories as a leading silk for environmental claims. The Legal 500 (2019)

commented: “*He brings particular experience of major environmental group actions.*”

He regularly represents 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 recently acted for Network Rail in noise nuisance proceedings relating to the Reading train care depot.

Group Actions

Oliver has extensive experience of acting for both claimants and defendants in group actions and other collective and multi-party claims. He regularly advises in relation to applications for Group Litigation Orders and associated issues in relation to the management of group actions.

He is currently engaged in the VW NO_x Group Litigation, thought to be the largest consumer claim brought in the UK.

He is also retained in the representative action brought against Google in respect of the ‘Safari Workaround’, an alleged data protection act breach affecting millions of iPhone users. Google’s appeal is listed to be heard by the Supreme Court in 2021.

His experience in this area includes environmental and pollution claims (for example, the OCENSA pipeline group action); alleged data breaches (for example, the Google and Equifax claims); 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).

Inquests and Public Inquiries

Oliver has acted in many major inquests and public inquiries. They include: the Grenfell Inquiry; 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 (2019) commented in relation to his inquest and inquiry expertise that “he is very thorough, approachable, focused and client friendly”; Chambers and Partners (2019) commented that “he is very bright, helpful and persuasive on his feet”.

Representative Cases

- *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.

What the directories say

"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

"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

Appointments

- President of the Oxford Union (1990)
- Queen's Counsel (2014)
- Chief Examiner for the BPTC (2015-2019)
- Trustee of the Lambeth Law Centre (2010-2019)
- 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
- British Insurance Law Association

Education

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

Awards & Recognitions

