

3PB Barrister Profile



Colin McDevitt

Call 1995

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Academic Qualifications

BSc (Hons), Dip. Law (City)

Colin McDevitt is a true specialist in Personal Injury, Clinical Negligence and Employment Law which together comprise 95% of his practice.

Colin started out in a scientific career, having studied the life sciences at University and working in pharmaceuticals for a number of years before being called to the Bar in 1995. His legal practice benefits from his analytical and evidence-based approach and is complimented by a commercial insight from his time in industry.

Lectures and Seminars

Colin is a popular and regular speaker at the many events that 3PB are involved in. He facilitated an open workshop for Waldrons, a firm of solicitors in the West Midlands, whose clients benefitted from round table discussions to solve the problems their businesses were encountering. He has also been an advocate in a series of "Mock Tribunals" for Withy King Solicitors in Oxford and Bath where he demonstrated to an audience of small and medium enterprises the skills and techniques needed in a tribunal. For Henmans Solicitors he presented a series of seminars to HR professionals for which he received the following feedback, "Thank you very much for your support with our employment law seminars this year which were a great success and very well received." He also lectures on legal topics such as new legislation and recent case law developments.

What Clients Say

"It was a pleasure to meet you last Friday and I would like to thank you very much indeed for the way in which you conducted the conference. The understanding and sympathetic approach which you displayed enabled [my daughter] to feel very much more at ease than she might have done and you were able to put across to her, in terms that she understood, the salient issues. She certainly left your Chambers feeling that she understood what had been said, had received very good, practical advice and guidance, and found the experience rather less daunting than she expected. For myself, I have been to many conferences over the 35 years of my career as a solicitor and have never attended one better, in all aspects - which is down to you. Not all lawyers (solicitors as well as barristers!) Have the ability to relate to a client in an understanding way but this you did, quite in addition to the clarity of the language used and the obvious understanding of the issues (both of which can too often be taken for granted). I have spoken to one solicitor friend recommending you. ...Very many thanks once again and very best wishes for a continuing successful career." *E-mail from the father of a teenage client*

"Thank you for your Advice which contains a sound analysis." *Richard Fry, Senior Partner, Griffith Smith Solicitors*

"I feel I must write to express the gratitude of both myself and my wife for Mr McDevitt's endeavours on our behalf. I am indebted to Mr McDevitt for the way he was able to put my wife at ease before she gave her evidence and would be grateful if you would pass my sincere thanks to him." *Mr Moroney*

"We thank Mr McDevitt for his efforts on our client's behalf and confirm that Mr [H] was extremely pleased with the result." *Pinto Potts Solicitors*

"The Client was very impressed with you." *Huggins & Lewis Foskett Solicitors*

"We were delighted to receive the news yesterday that the Employment Tribunal case was judged in our favour. ...We have many things to thank [our solicitor] for ...[m]ost of all, we have to thank him for his inspired choice of barrister. Initially extremely apprehensive on the day of the hearing, Dr [S] and Dr [B] were given great encouragement by your style and approach. ...They were equally impressed by your closing submission which left me thinking we were home and dry. This of course did not lessen the sense of delight (and relief) around the Practice yesterday as the news broke. I would like to thank you on behalf of all the Partners for the excellent job you did for us and for the result you achieved." *Doctors' Surgery on the south coast*

"I just wanted to drop you a line to say thank you for your assistance and support in this matter. I know what a pain it can be when professional clients approach you direct. You did, however, manage to keep us under control and supply all of the support and guidance that was necessary. You did guide us to a satisfactory conclusion. To have kept the Tribunal in line to obtain such a strong judgment is not just a matter of happenstance - I know that it has to be worked for and directed from an early stage." *Mr C, CK Solicitors*

"Thank you for your support and hard work that you have done for me" *Steve Brewer, client*

"Just a short note to express my gratitude for all your hard work on my behalf and your kindness and understanding during my ordeal. Thanks to you my faith in the human race has been restored. ...Many thanks." *Mr Abercrombie, client*

"Thank you for your able assistance with this case - which was by no means straightforward! Well done!" *Moorhead James Solicitors*

"I am pleased to say the court found in favour of Mr [H] in all respects and I believe Mr [H] is very pleased with the Court's decision. [T]hank you for your efforts." *McDonald Oates Solicitors*

"Really enjoyed working with Colin and looking forward to the next battle." *Eric Robinson Solicitors*

"Ms [C] is very pleased with this result and I would like to thank you for your help in preparing this claim." *Davies and Partners Solicitors*

"Mr [M] has been on the phone singing your praises. ...I said I would pass on his thanks (and mine) to you." *Lyons Wilson Solicitors*

"A quick and heartfelt message to say thank you ever so much for all your hard work, excellent support and cheery manner that succeeded in bringing my case to an end. ...I am delighted with the outcome. ...With the very best of wishes to you and all of the team, including Colin who was so instrumental in getting the best outcome possible." *Client's email to instructing solicitor*

Interests

Colin enjoys cycling, walking and watersports. He has completed the Henley Half Marathon and plays the bass and acoustic guitar.

Some notable recent cases

A (a child) v Jersey [2007]

Acting for the infant claimant who was born 3 months after her father's death from pituitary adenoma at the age of 29 years. The dependency claim on behalf of the child arose out of the negligence of an ophthalmologist who failed to diagnose the deceased's condition. High value claim.

B v Royal Bournemouth Hospital [2009]

An administrative failure led to a 6 month delay in the claimant undergoing a hysterectomy which resulted in an aggressive cancer significantly reducing the claimant's 5 year survival rate. The defendant disputed causation and quantum before the claim was compromised.

C v Harley Medical Group [2009]

Acting for the claimant who underwent a breast reduction procedure in the absence of a warning as to the risks of fat necrosis if the claimant did not lose weight. The procedure resulted in fat necrosis and infection which required 4 further operations to debride the wounds, close of the wounds and cosmetically revise the scars. The claimant suffered pain, distress and anxiety.

Davies v Bunney [2010]

Acting for the passenger in a car who suffered serious injury when the driver lost control on black ice. The claimant suffered significant injuries to his chest, lungs and spine. He was kept in hospital for 17 days. There was a substantial dispute on liability. The claim was compromised shortly before trial.

Greene v O'Connell & Shea [2011]

A High Court claim in which Colin acted for the claimant who fell 18 feet from a ladder inside a lift shaft that was being constructed. He suffered a brain and orthopaedic injuries causing cognitive, psychiatric and physical symptoms. There were issues of contributory negligence, causation and quantum. Each side instructed 5 experts to deal with the myriad of injuries. Extensive past and future losses were claimed and the parties attended procedural hearings and a joint settlement meeting. The claim was successfully compromised.

Hirson v Zmudka [2011]

Colin acted for the claimant who was injured in an accident which damaged her spine and caused psychiatric symptoms. The claim involved detailed analysis of video surveillance evidence in respect of the significance of which the experts disagreed. Significant damages were claimed and the claim was successfully compromised at a joint settlement meeting.

M (a child) v Belle Moor School [2011]

Colin represented the 12 year old claimant student who was assaulted by a teacher while at school causing minor physical but significant psychological injury. He became isolated within his community and withdrew from religious and cultural activities. He became electively mute as a result of PTSD. There was a dispute as to causation and it was alleged that the claimant's allegedly dysfunctional family had contributed to a large extent to his symptoms. Difficult claim to quantify given the effect on the claimant's schooling.

P v C [2012]

Acting for the claimant who underwent a breast-enhancing injection of hyaluronic acid. She claimed she did not give informed consent due to a failure to inform of the risks of the procedure and the lack of any 'cooling off' period. The claimant developed encapsulated cysts which required remedial surgery. The claim involved allegations of tampering with medical records and allegations amounting to fraudulent non-payment for the procedure. The claim was compromised 2 weeks before trial.

Professional Qualifications and Appointments

- Accredited Mediation Advocate

Professional Bodies

- Employment Law Bar Association (ELBA)
- Personal Injury Bar Association
- Professional Negligence Bar Association (PNBA)