

# DWF Chambers

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[dwfgroup.com](http://dwfgroup.com)



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# Who we are

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DWF Chambers is an expert, quality, streamlined service, operating as an alternative to the external Bar and traditional chambers – saving you money and making communication easier.

## How we can help

Operating as an in-house set of chambers, with a dedicated clerking team, DWF's barristers and advocates understand that getting the best results from advocacy relies on specialist understanding and up-to-the-minute experience. That's why DWF Chambers is separated into sub-teams, drawing together experts in personal and catastrophic injury, occupational health and disease, employment and commercial including commercial landlord and tenant and real property, professional indemnity and costs applications and assessments.

DWF Chambers accepts instructions directly, as well as through DWF Law LLP. Whether you need someone to conduct remote or in-person court hearings, in all courts across England and Wales or support with drafting, our commitment to providing the very highest quality legal expertise, at a reasonable cost, sets us apart from the other chambers.





# Our expertise

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We Specialise in the following core areas:

- Commercial / Dispute Resolution
- Employment
- Personal Injury / Fraud
- Regulatory



# Personal Injury / Fraud

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We cover the work of a variety of teams within DWF, including Catastrophic Injury, Occupational Health / Casualty, Motor, Fraud and Costs, providing a full service including advisory, drafting and advocacy work as well as attendance and representation at ADR.

We are able to accept a wide range of instructions from very high-value catastrophic personal injury matters down to volume work such as representation at stage 3 quantum hearings.

Unlike traditional chambers, our 'in-house' nature means we are able to draw on deep and broad sector understanding from our position within the firm. Our barristers and advocates sit alongside specialist solicitors, as well as a range of in-house connected services, providing a seamless client experience. This allows us to deliver the very best representation at rates competitive with the external bar.

Working alongside DWF's 1000-strong, award-winning insurance team our Cat PI and Occupational Health advocates bring market-leading insight, deep legal expertise and seamless client service. Our innovative in-house structure supports this in a way traditional chambers can't. By working alongside many solicitors and claims specialists, as well as Medical and Rehabilitation managers, Forensic (our forensic accountancy service) and in-house collision investigation experts, we are able to develop a better cultural understanding of the case, as well as improve its day-to-day management.

Our advocates are skilled in drawing upon a sector-specific understanding of claims ranging from RTA and motor claims, to NIHL and disease claims, EL/PL, product liability, police and prison claims. We have particular expertise in handling interlocutory matters, fraudulent claims and matters relating to costs and case management.



# Commercial / Dispute Resolution

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## Commercial

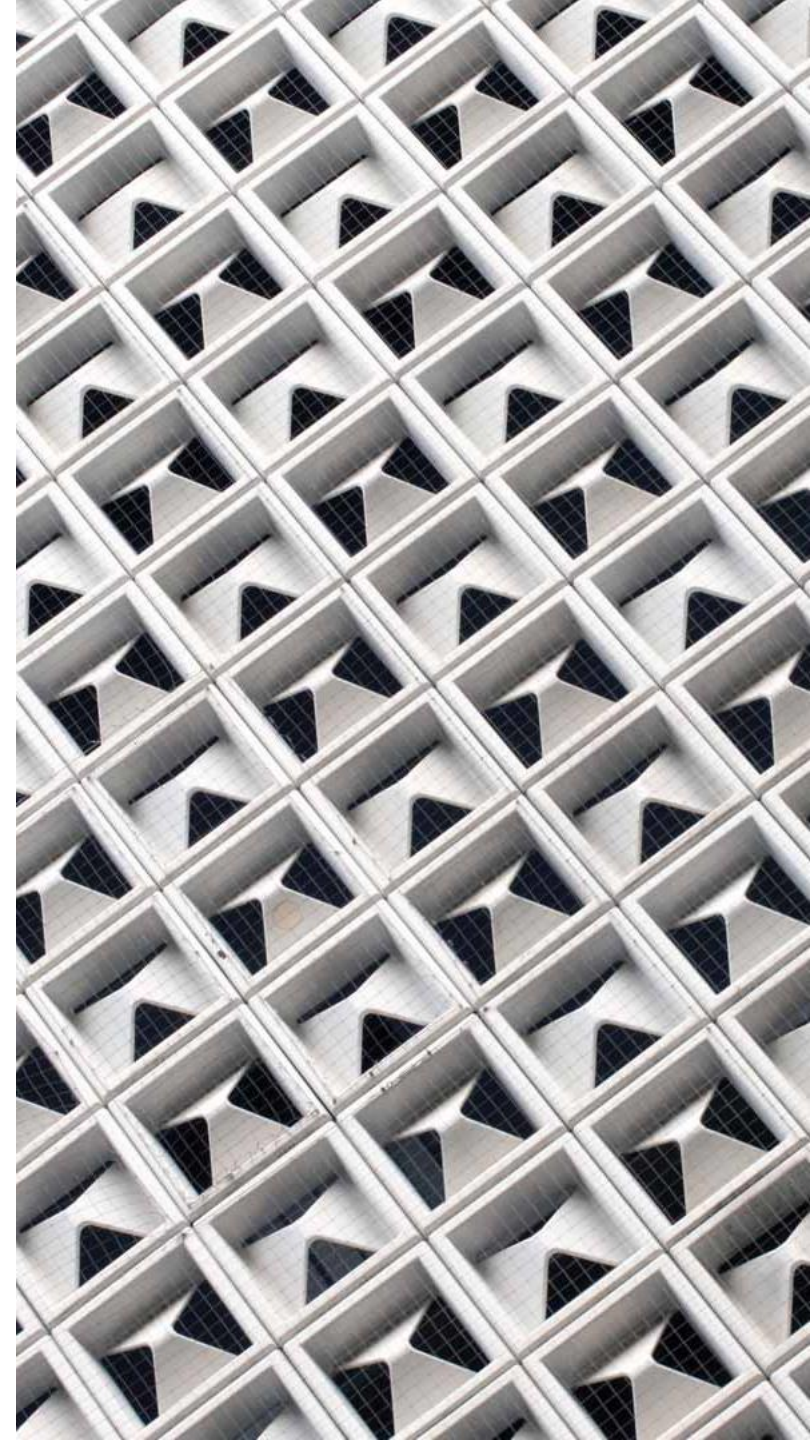
Our team act in both domestic and international matters in different commercial sectors including contract, sale of goods and professional indemnity. Our team members have wide experience in the specialist County Courts lists and the High Court of England & Wales and experience acting in high-value freezing injunctions. The team has experience acting from the pre-action stage to trial.

## Insolvency and Company

Our team act in a range of Insolvency applications across England & Wales. Our advocates are regularly instructed in applications for the extension of the Company's administration term and possession and sale applications. Our team has experience in a range of company law-related matters, from general shareholder disputes, including unfair prejudice petitions, to a breach of fiduciary duties. Furthermore, the team is instructed to advise in corporate transactions.

## Property

Our team cover matters such as advice and trials on covenants and easements etc., commercial and residential landlord and tenant work, 1954 Act renewals and dilapidation claims and private client claims for injunctions for example arising out of neighbour type disputes over boundaries and covenants. Our team members have a wide range of experience in the County Court, High Court and Court of Appeal as well as the First-Tier Tribunal . The team has experience acting from the pre-action stage to trial.





# Employment

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Our employment law advocates represent both employers and employees at all levels of tribunal and Court across England, Wales and Scotland on a wide range of employment claims.

With a particular specialism in advising on discrimination claims unfair/wrongful dismissal, TUPE, misconduct, and regulatory matters. In addition to advising on and leading internal disciplinary proceedings, our advocates understand the sensitive and complex elements within every employment law case.

Unlike traditional chambers, our 'in-house' nature means we can draw on deep and broad sector understanding, from across DWF, in particular in the education and public sectors.



# Regulatory

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The regulatory team at DWF Chambers has a wide depth and breadth of knowledge of cases in the fields of health and safety, inquests and inquiries, healthcare regulatory and environmental law.

Members of the team have been instructed to both prosecute and defend cases brought on behalf of the Health and Safety Executive, the Environment Agency, the Care Quality Commission, the Food Standards Agency, various local councils, and Fire and Rescue Authorities.

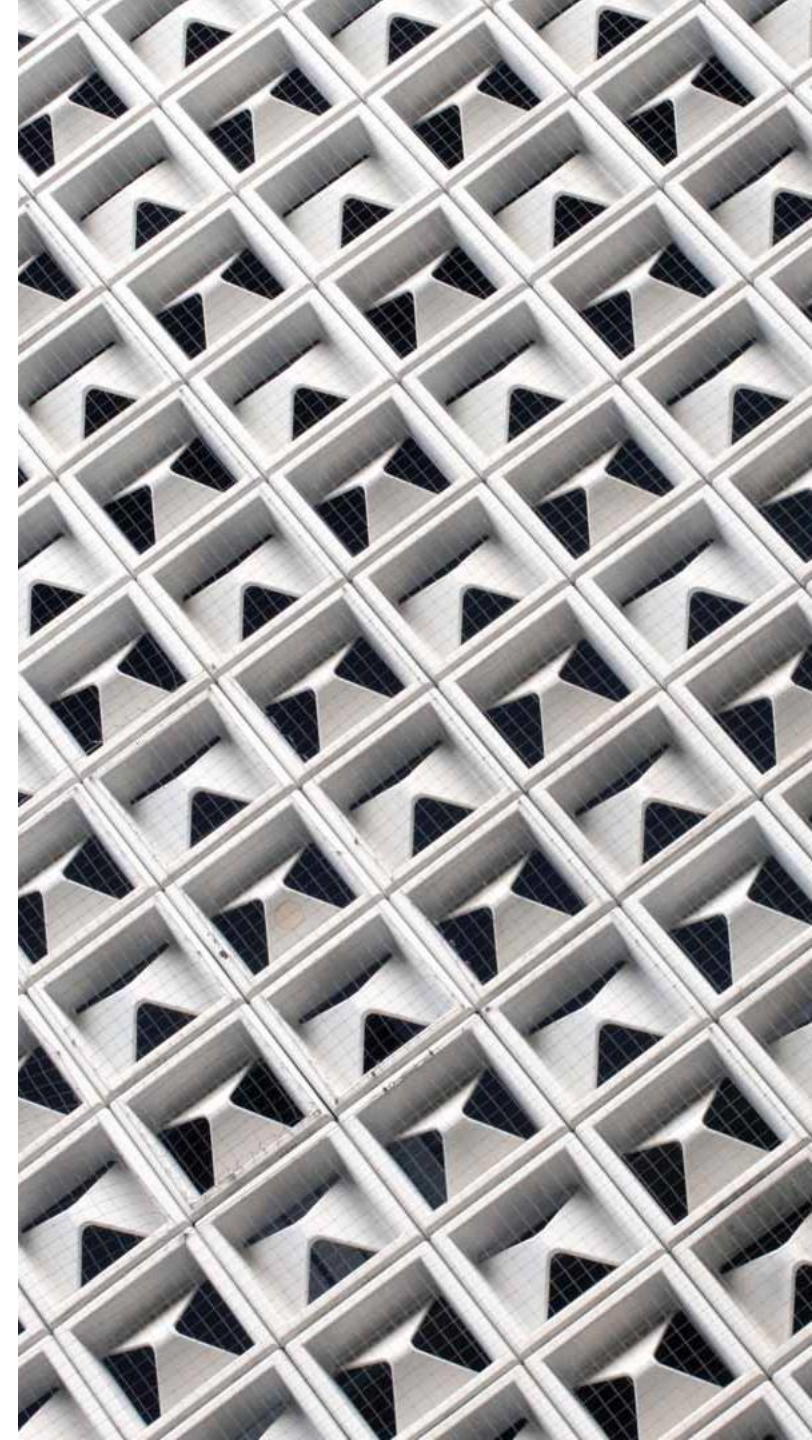
In addition we have experience of inquests, and can assist with representation on behalf of any interested persons. Members of our inquest team have been instructed by mental health charities, the Royal College of Midwives, the Health and Safety Executive and bereaved families.

We also have experience of conducting private prosecutions following fraudulent civil claims.

We have members of the team who are on the list of specialist regulatory advocates in Health and Safety and Environmental Law.

The team have experience representing parties in proceedings brought against medical professionals in fitness to practice and disciplinary hearings.

Members of the Chambers team have also been instructed on behalf of core participants in a number of significant public inquiries including: *The Grenfell Tower Inquiry*, *The Brook House Inquiry* and *The COVID Inquiry*



# The DWF Chambers Team

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# The team

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Dan Monaghan  
Director of Clerking & Operations

Alex Deakin  
Barrister (Director)

Elizabeth Gallagher  
Barrister (Director)

George Davies  
Barrister (Director)

Jonathan Lester  
Barrister (Director)

Stuart Young  
Barrister (Director)

Josh Finn  
Senior Clerk

Christopher Hudson  
Barrister

Daniel King  
Barrister

Daniel Tresigne  
Barrister

Dravin Bheemah  
Barrister

Sarah Monaghan  
Clerk

Jonathan Cosgrove  
Barrister

Christopher Neale  
Barrister

Kim Clifton  
Barrister

Lily Lawrie  
Barrister

Declan Fitzmaurice  
Clerk

Jonathan Moore  
Clerk

Klaudia Klapsia  
Barrister

Sarah Platts  
Barrister

Sean Batterton  
Barrister

Kelcie Atkinson  
Junior Clerk

Eugene Tang  
Pupil Barrister

Helen Hankey  
Pupil Barrister

Alastair Bloor  
Advocate

Eleanor Shephard  
Advocate

Ella Sides  
Advocate

Ellen White  
Advocate

Hannah Ritchie  
Advocate

Hope Pranauskaite  
Advocate

Paige Dennison  
Advocate

# Team Head

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**Dan Monaghan**

Director of Clerking &  
Operations

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Dan joined DWF in 2020 after 25 years spent clerking in external chambers.

Dan heads the DWF Chambers team and is responsible for business development and operations.

Working closely with the Head of Insurance Business Services, Dan strives to provide a first-class service to all clients and to assist all practice groups to provide bespoke and innovative products often in collaboration with our practice groups' current and new initiatives.

Dan is a Qualified Member of the Institute of Barristers Clerks. When time allows, Dan can be found riding or tinkering with his motorcycle or playing the guitar.



# Advocates

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## Alex Deakin

Barrister, Director

Year of Call: 2017

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Alex joined DWF in May 2021 and currently specialises in commercial law whilst also maintaining an interest in large PI claims and dealing with instances of alleged fundamental dishonesty.

Alongside being in Court most days, Alex also has a thriving paperwork practice. This can range from drafting statements of case through to providing advices as to prospects and also strategy in general.

Alex initially completed pupillage with a well-regarded London criminal set, before becoming a member of a Legal 500 leading set in Kent practising civil law. Alex has been instructed at all levels in the County Court and is regularly instructed to attend the High Court.

Having previously qualified as a Chartered Accountant, with one of the Big 4, Alex has a keen eye for the figures and also recognises the commercial realities facing clients.

Alex is a member of the DWF Injury Validation Unit panel.

# Advocates

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**Elizabeth Gallagher**

Barrister, Director

Year of Call: 2014

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Elizabeth joined DWF Chambers in November 2024. She is an expert in all aspects of Personal Injury / Fraud and also practises in Regulatory (Inquests, Inquiries and Health & Safety). Elizabeth sits as a Deputy District Judge on the South Eastern Circuit.

Her Personal Injury practice includes employers' liability; occupiers' liability; highway accidents; road traffic accidents; product liability; serious orthopaedic injuries including amputations, burns and scarring, long-term psychiatric disorders, pain conditions, industrial disease and head/brain injuries.

Elizabeth has extensive trial experience in relation to personal injury claims involving issues of causation (including low velocity impact claims), occupancy, induced and/or staged road traffic collisions. She also has experience of cases involving exaggerated or fabricated injuries using surveillance, social media evidence and forensic engineering evidence.

Elizabeth is experienced with health and safety issues arising out of her personal injury practice, including claims on construction sites and in other employment settings, and her work on the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

Elizabeth has a broad insurance practice and is regularly instructed on behalf of national insurance companies as well as a number of international insurers. She has particular experience of issues arising from misrepresentation and non-disclosure in the context of motor insurance, and indemnity disputes in relation to the Road Traffic Act 1988 and Article 75 of the Motor Insurers' Bureau's Articles of Association.

Elizabeth prides herself on her personable manner and her ability to give clear, client-focused advice. She is familiar with dealing with sensitive, high-profile matters, having been instructed in the Hillsborough Victims Litigation and the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.



# Advocates

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**George Davies**

Barrister, Director

Year of Call: 1998

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George joined DWF Chambers in November 2024. He practises personal injury / fraud and commercial law. He is an experienced advocate in civil fraud litigation dealing with both insurance and commercial disputes ranging from injunctions to trials and subsequent contempt proceedings.

He has extensive experience in defending fraudulent and exaggerated personal injury claims. His common law practice areas also includes inquests and inquiries. George's personal injury practice encompasses high value road traffic claims, employers' liability and major injury claims.

His regulatory work includes financial services disputes (acting for both banks and consumers).

His knowledge of commercial litigation and financial services regulation originated from working at a City law firm and with the Enforcement Division of the FSA (now FCA).

George is recognised in Chambers and Partners as Band 2 in Motor Insurance Fraud and has been ranked for the past 9 years

# Advocates

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## Jonathan Lester

Barrister, Director

Year of Call: 2016

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Jonathan joined DWF Chambers in October 2023 after a career both as a self-employed barrister and a solicitor.

Jonathan specialises in Insolvency/Financial Restructuring, Commercial Litigation, Property / Real Estate and Professional Negligence. Jonathan is also experienced in Personal Injury / Fraud claims.

Recent work includes:

Acting for the guarantor of a £2.5m facility to defend a claim on the guarantee on the grounds of misrepresentation;

Advising a lender on the validity of the appointment of receivers and the possibility of subrogation to earlier charges, with some £4.5m of lending on a luxury-home build in issue;

Appearing in 5-day trial for the landlord on a leasehold damage and disrepair claim;

Advising and drafting statements of case on a £3m negligence claim against a patent attorney for causing its client to fall into breach of a pre-existing contractual obligation;

Jonathan is a Contributing Editor to *Encyclopaedia of Banking Law*, LexisNexis.



# Advocates

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**Stuart Young**

Barrister, Director

Year of Call: 2009

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Stuart joined DWF Chambers in May 2024.

Stuart is an experienced advocate with vast experience of personal injury & fraud claims and regulatory

He is recognised for his pragmatic approach, forensic case analysis, robust cross examination and focussed submissions.

Stuart prides himself on his busy personal injury practice, regularly acting on behalf of clients in road traffic claims, employers' liability, and public liability cases.

Stuart is regularly instructed to act on behalf of a number of leading defendant insurers as panel Counsel.

He is regularly instructed in cases where fraud is alleged or imputed, or in other suspicious cases where a robust and thorough defence is required.

He is considerable experience in cases involving alleged fraud rings, phantom passenger claims, low velocity impact (LVI), exaggeration and credit hire claims.

Stuart is instructed from pre-issue advice to conference with insured and insurer clients, drafting pleadings, attending interlocutory pleadings and attends complex fraud trials all over the country.

# Advocates

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**Daniel King**

Barrister, Senior Associate

Year of Call: 2021

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Daniel is a Barrister. He was admitted to the roll in 2008 and transferred to bar in 2021. He joined DWF Chambers having previously spent over 7 years working as both a litigator and in-house Advocate for a national law firm, providing the firm's fee earners and insurer clients with advocacy, drafting and advisory services.

A counter-fraud specialist, his work encompasses advocacy and drafting arising from the defence of suspected fraudulent road traffic accident claims (many involving large credit hires), in addition to retaining a general civil litigation and EL/PL practice. Daniel regularly advises on counter-fraud strategies and is experienced in the preparation of pleadings engaging s.57 of the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 and fundamental dishonesty.

He is a robust advocate with a proven track record of success at trial – many of the claims he has been instructed to defend have been dismissed in their entirety (including those with a credit hire element). Daniel has extensive experience at representing Defendants at contested interlocutory applications, CMCs, and final determination hearings across all tracks, having appeared in more than 500 oral hearings in County Courts throughout England and Wales over the course of the past 2 years alone.

Daniel is a member of the Personal Injury Bar Association and of the DWF Injury Validation Unit panel.

# Advocates

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**Christopher Hudson**

Barrister, Senior Associate

Year of Call: 2017

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Since joining DWF Chambers in July 2018, Chris has built a broad civil practice representing both claimants and defendants, largely in commercial litigation, personal injury, and costs. Chris is regularly instructed to appear in final hearings including multi-track, fast track, and small claims trials. In addition to being a proficient and experienced trial advocate, Chris is routinely instructed in relation to interlocutory hearings, such as CCMCs, applications, CMCs, disposals, and stage 3s. He regularly receives instructions to draft advices, statements of case, applications, Part 35 questions, and witness statements.

In commercial litigation, Chris has developed broad experience in claims involving jurisdictional issues, contractual construction, software licence agreements, breach of contract, misrepresentation, and company disputes. Chris has a particular interest and aptitude in contract issues which has seen him instructed to appear in hearings and draft documents across a variety of practice areas where contractual disputes arise, including insurance, employment, and debt claims. Chris also has particular expertise in claims involving Data Protection and consumer claims.

In personal injury litigation, Chris takes on a wide range of instructions across many personal injury practice areas including motor claims, occupational health, catastrophic injury, and industrial disease, representing both claimants and defendants in the county court and high court as well as drafting statements of case, applications, and advices.

Chris has a lot of experience in civil litigation and is routinely involved in litigation from issue up to final hearings. He has a deep understanding of civil procedure and costs which ensures he achieves the best possible results for clients. Chris is praised by clients for his strong oral and written skills. He is particularly noted for his robust advocacy style and ability to get to the crux of a matter quickly and effectively. Chris is a member of the DWF Injury Validation Unit panel.

# Advocates

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**Daniel Tresigne**

Barrister, Senior Associate

Year of Call: 2016

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Daniel has been a member of DWF Chambers since September 2018, having gained previous experience in self-employed advocacy and file handling for a national solicitors firm. Since joining DWF Chambers as an Advocate, he has gone on to complete Pupillage. During that time, his practice has expanded dramatically.

Daniel enjoys a varied practice across personal injury, including RTA, EL/PL litigation and inquests. Daniel also has experience dealing with claims involving breaches of human rights, and cases involving serving prisoners. In addition, Daniel has extensive experience in dealing with fraud and counter-fraud work, having secured multiple findings of fundamental dishonesty and costs orders setting aside QOCS protection.

Daniel also has experience with commercial and chancery litigation with a particular focus on consumer contracts, defamation and data protection claims. Included within his repertoire is insurance recoveries work, and enforcement of judgment debts.

Alongside this experience, Daniel has experience in numerous procedural and costs points which arise as part and parcel of his general practice, including more novel and complex points. This spans from issue and pre-issue of proceedings to trial and appeals; in small claims track, fast track and multi-track litigation in both the County Court and the High Court.

With a reputation as a pragmatic but unrelenting advocate, who is approachable for lay and professional clients alike, Daniel has achieved several notable results which exceed his call.

Daniel is a member of the Personal Injury Bar Association and of the DWF Injury Validation Unit panel.



# Advocates

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**Dravin Bheemah**

Barrister, Senior Associate

Year of Call: 2010

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After a BA in Politics and Legal Studies at the University of Exeter, Dravin read for BA degrees in Business Studies and then Law, after which he took the Bar Vocational Course and a Masters in Advanced Legal Practice. Dravin was called to the Bar in 2010 and shortly thereafter he was headhunted by Stones Solicitors LLP (now part of Trowers & Hamblins) where he developed his advocacy skills working as an Employment Tribunal Advocate. Whilst working at Stones, Dravin cross-qualified as a solicitor via the Qualified Lawyers Transfer Test. Dravin then spent several years working as a solicitor (and subsequently a solicitor-advocate), specialising in Employment Law.

In September 2017, Dravin switched to the self-employed Bar and continued his work as an Employment specialist, but also represented hundreds of clients in a wide range of other civil claims, in particular Personal Injury cases. Over the last five years, Dravin has cultivated a successful practice at the Bar and he has provided representation for clients in complex and high value claims, some of which carried significant reputational risk for the parties involved.

In January 2023, Dravin moved to DWF Chambers where he continues to undertake Employment and civil work. Having worked as a solicitor for a number of years, Dravin understands perhaps better than most the pressures that solicitors face. Dravin welcomes the opportunity to speak with solicitors directly should they need to discuss a case for any reason.

# Advocates

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**Jonathan Cosgrove**

Barrister, Senior Associate

Year of Call: 2015

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Jonathan joined DWF Chambers in April 2019 having previously been part of the in-house legal department at Greater Manchester Police. It was there that Jonathan gained invaluable experience in areas such as personal injury, inquests and civil actions against the police. Jonathan has been able to build on this experience as an advocate, and his current practice incorporates a variety of different areas, including occupational health, insolvency and costs. Jonathan continues to work diligently for those who instruct him and can be found attending interlocutory hearings, small, fast and multi-track trials, advising in writing and drafting pleadings.

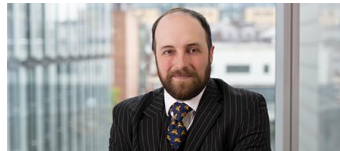
Jonathan is also experienced in employment cases and was recently successful in securing a six-figure award on behalf of a claimant and regulatory cases, including inquests and tribunals.

In 2021 Jonathan was successful in securing pupillage with DWF Chambers. In recognition of his substantial advocacy experience before commencing pupillage, the Bar Standards Board granted a four-month reduction from the normally required twelve months and in February 2022 became a fully qualified barrister.

Jonathan is a member of the Personal Injury Bar Association and of the DWF Injury Validation Unit panel.

# Advocates

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Christopher Neale

Barrister

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Chris joined DWF Chambers in May 2022, having spent over four years working as an In-house Advocate for national claimant and defendant law firms whilst practicing as a Solicitor Advocate between 2018 and 2023.

Chris has extensive experience in civil litigation, personal injury and counter-fraud practice that include all elements of EL/PL and RTA litigation credit hire disputes, with particular interest in disputes containing allegations of fraud and fundamental dishonesty.

Chris is regularly instructed to attend on a wide and varied range of hearings at both the County and High Court, ranging from interlocutory matters, through to Fast Track Trials, CCMCs, appeal hearings and tribunal matters, as well as CRU Appeal hearings. Chris appears in Court on a daily basis, alongside maintaining a busy paperwork and advisory practice.

Chris also has a developed practice in tribunal work, and has appeared on behalf of a number of NHS trusts. He also has experience as a reviewing lawyer for private prosecutions brought arising from findings of fundamental dishonesty in civil proceedings.

His experience extends beyond his years as a qualified advocate. Following his call to the Bar in 2010 he worked over the next eight years as a solicitor's agent dealing with personal injury and property disputes, as an assistant to the Director of Prosecutions (Isle of Man) dealing with complex criminal cases; before returning to work for a leading claimant law firm practicing in personal injury; and to sit as a lay magistrate.

Chris welcomes instructions for oral advocacy, as well as advisory work and drafting of pleadings. Chris is a member of the DWF Injury Validation Unit panel.

# Advocates

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**Kimberley Clifton**

Barrister

Year of Call: 2018

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Kimberley joined DWF Chambers in January 2024 after practising at the self-employed bar.

Kimberley enjoys a broad civil and commercial practice representing both claimants and defendants. Her work has included personal injury, RTA litigation in particular credit hire disputes, consumer rights disputes, property and contractual disputes.

Kimberley is regularly instructed for final hearings with experience in both fast track and small claims matters. Further Kimberley has vast experience in interlocutory hearings such as application hearings, CMCs, CCMCs and stage 3 hearings.

Prior to pupillage, Kimberley previously worked as an Ombudsman where she worked with both retailers and consumers to resolve legal disputes. Further, Kimberley gained advocacy and drafting experience as an In-house Advocate with DWF, previously working on a range of civil and commercial matters. This role also included a secondment to a BT working within their legal department dealing with consumer disputes.

Kimberley is also available for drafting instructions, with experience in both advisory work as well as the drafting of statements of case and applications.

Outside of work, Kim enjoys walking her dog, travelling and volunteering as a Brownie Leader.



# Advocates

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Lily Lawrie

Barrister

Year of Call: 2022

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Lily joined DWF Chambers as a Pupil in September 2022, having completed her Bar Professional Training Course ('BPTC') in the same year. She studied the BPTC part time at the BPP University London (Holborn) achieving a 'Very Competent'. The modules she excelled in were 'Resolutions of Disputes out of Court', 'Drafting', and 'Criminal Litigation', achieving an 'Outstanding' in each.

Her previous experience includes 5 years working in the small legal team of a rapidly growing, fast-paced multi-jurisdictional General Insurance Group. Her position had strong commercial and strategic focus, with emphasis on drafting, reviewing, and negotiating contracts; providing legal insight, opinion and advice; managing complaints litigation; and acting as the nominated legal advisor for complex or commercially significant projects. While working in this role she also became the first colleague to have been afforded full sponsorship to complete a BPTC. Lily attended the University of Liverpool to complete my LLB (Hons) where she obtained a 2:1, excelling in Company Law and Financial Services Law which she took as elective modules, achieving a 1st in each. In her third year she was also the winner of the University of Liverpool's Third Year Mooting Competition.

# Advocates

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Sarah Platts

Barrister

Year of Call: 2017

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Sarah has been a member of DWF Chambers since September 2022, and has experience across the fast and multi-track including trials and appeals.

**Commercial:** Sarah has experience of a range of contractual disputes especially within a sale of goods and services context. Sarah is familiar with both business to business and consumer disputes.

**Insolvency:** Sarah has experience with both personal and corporate insolvency appearing regularly in bankruptcy and winding up hearings.

**Property:** Sarah has extensive property experience including both commercial and residential landlord and tenant disputes and has appeared in the County Court, High Court, Magistrates Court and First-Tier Tribunal on a wide variation of property matters. Other experience includes interim injunctions, boundary disputes, party wall disputes, breaches of covenant and rights of way.

Prior to commencing pupillage Sarah worked for a nationwide estate agent and her responsibilities included drafting and renewing leases for telecom masts.

**Personal Injury:** Sarah enjoys a varied practice across personal injury, including RTA, EL/PL and holiday sickness/injuries. Sarah also has experience with fraud and counter fraud work.

Alongside her experience in oral advocacy, Sarah has extensive experience in drafting pleadings and other statements of case including injunctions and advisory work; both written and in conference in all areas of her practice.

# Advocates

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Sean Batterton

Barrister

Year of Call: 2016

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Sean adopts a client-focused approach and has an excellent rapport with solicitors and clients. Sean prides himself in approaching advocacy with common sense and analysis, resulting in clear persuasive submissions.

Sean has a developing expertise in employment law and is gaining experience in cases involving unpaid wages, unfair dismissal, and discrimination cases.

Sean accepts instructions in all areas of personal injury work. He undertakes work for Claimants and Defendants at all levels and has experience in matters where fraud and fundamental dishonesty are alleged including LVI claims.

Sean regularly advises on both liability and quantum and drafts pleadings in employers' liability, public liability and road traffic claims.

Sean is a member of the Personal Injury Bar Association and of the DWF Injury Validation Unit panel.

# Advocates

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**Klaudia Klapsia**

Barrister

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Klaudia joined DWF Advocacy in November 2021. Prior to this, she has completed her Bar Practice Course at the University of Law obtaining an overall grade of Very Competent along with achieving an Outstanding mark both in Civil Advocacy and Drafting. She has further completed a LLM Master of Laws degree achieving a Distinction.

Prior to joining DWF as an Advocate, Klaudia has acquired experience of handling a range of civil law cases, having worked in a number of paralegal roles for both Claimant and Defendant leading law firms. Klaudia regularly drafted pleadings and interim applications in a variety of areas of civil litigation, including personal injury, credit hire, insurance and fraud.

Building on this experience, Klaudia now appears in court on a daily basis in personal injury and insolvency matters, as well as road traffic and credit hire trials. She is also regularly instructed to act for both claimants and defendants in case management and procedural applications.



# Advocates

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Helen Hankey

Pupil Barrister

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Helen joined DWF Chambers in August 2022 having previously worked as a paralegal in a Claimant law firm, assisting with personal injury cases in the area of travel litigation. During this role, Helen assisted on high value cases and considered complex issues involving jurisdiction and foreign law. Helen also has experience in Real Estate Commercial and Residential Teams, where she assisted in post completion matters.

Helen has obtained a First Class law degree from Manchester Metropolitan University. During her studies, Helen secured first place in an internal mooted competition at the University. Helen completed the LLM in Legal Practice at the Bar at Manchester Metropolitan University, where she achieved a Distinction overall and a 'Very Competent' on the Bar Practice Training Course element. Helen achieved an 'Outstanding' mark in Civil Advocacy, Examination in Chief, Drafting, Opinion Writing and Resolution of Disputes Out of Court. Helen also volunteered at the Greater Manchester Law Centre, where she assisted clients in appealing decisions regarding their benefits and appeared in the First-Tier Tribunal.

Since joining DWF Chambers Helen is regularly instructed in small claims trials in relation to both liability and quantum, case management hearings and applications, as well as increasing her drafting experience for a variety of matters.

Helen commenced pupillage in September 2024.

# Advocates

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Eugene Tang

Pupil Barrister

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Eugene joined DWF Chambers as a Pupil Barrister in September 2024. He completed the Bar Vocational Studies with Distinction at City Law School and was called to the Bar in 2021. Prior to commencing pupillage, Eugene spent 2 ½ years working as paralegal to the Infected Blood Inquiry, where he worked closely with Counsels to investigate the 'largest treatment disaster in NHS history'. Alongside his Inquiry role, Eugene has attended over 100 county court hearings as a self-employed advocate, gaining experience in a wide range of civil matters including bankruptcy, consumer credit, housing, and personal injury.

Eugene has a strong interest in injury-related matters having obtained Distinctions in both his Honours BSc in Psychology and Neuroscience and MSc in Clinical Neuroscience. He received the 'Henderson Chambers Prize' for his LLM dissertation discussing the role of mediation in clinical negligence claims involving the NHS.

Eugene is a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and an accredited mediator.

# Advocates

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Alastair Bloor

Advocate

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Alastair has experience in a range of civil litigation. As a DWF Advocate he welcomes instructions on:

Road traffic accident and credit hire trials;

Personal injury matters;

Insolvency/bankruptcy proceedings;

Procedural/interlocutory applications.

Prior to joining DWF, Alastair acquired experience handling a wide range of civil litigation as a paralegal at a leading north-based law firm, including: anti-social behaviour injunctions, possession orders, landlord/tenant disputes and commercial leasehold matters. Alastair has particular experience in drafting pleadings for such matters.

Alastair recently completed his Bar Training Course, obtaining an overall grade of Distinction. He was awarded one of the highest grades in his national cohort for his LLM Master of Laws dissertation on regulating emerging technology. He was awarded First-Class Honours in his undergraduate law degree, and has recently won awards in national and international advocacy competitions.

# Advocates

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Hope Pranauskaite

Advocate

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Prior to joining DWF, Hope developed her advocacy skills by mooting throughout both of her degrees and working as a self-employed advocate on Claimant matters for 10 months after being called to the Bar. Hope has experience of Landlord and Tenant, Recoveries and Enforcement matters, Interlocutory Applications, and PI as well as RTA and Commercial Small Claims and has attended in excess of 300 hearings to date.

Hope achieved a First Class Honours degree in Law LLB from the University of Liverpool and Outstanding/Distinction in Bar Practice Course with Pro-Bono LLM from the University of Law. Hope achieved Outstanding in Conference, Cross-examination, Criminal Litigation, Evidence and Sentencing and Civil Litigation and Resolution of Disputes Out of Court.



# Advocates

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Ella Sides

Advocate

M tbc

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Ella Sides joined DWF Chambers in August 2024, bringing with her a wealth of academic and practical experience. She holds a 2:1 LLB from Sheffield Hallam, where she excelled in her civil advocacy module, earning a distinction, and achieved a high distinction in her drafting module. Currently, Ella is pursuing her LLM in bar studies, further honing her legal expertise.

Throughout her studies, Ella gained valuable experience working in retail for five years. This experience has equipped her with exceptional organizational skills and a client-focused approach, always prioritizing her clients' interests. Her time in retail also helped her develop outstanding interpersonal skills, making her a well-rounded professional.

In her spare time, Ella is an avid Formula 1 fan and a dedicated supporter of Sheffield Wednesday. She also enjoys spending time with her two giant schnauzers.

# Advocates

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## Eleanor Shephard

Advocate

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Eleanor joined DWF Chambers as an Advocate in October 2024. She holds a First Class LLB from the University of Warwick, an overall 'High Distinction' in the Bar Practice Course, and is presently awaiting her final grade for her LLM in Bar Practice.

She achieved at least 'Distinctions' in all of her Bar Practice Course modules. Her particular BPC highlights include Civil Advocacy, Opinion Writing, Conference Skills, and Examination in Chief in which she achieved 'High Distinctions'.

Throughout her college and university education, Eleanor worked in people-focused roles, initially as a receptionist at a beauty spa and later as a marketing assistant for an education provider. By virtue of these roles she has developed strong communication skills, problem-solving abilities, resilience, empathy and reliability.

In her spare time, Eleanor is an animal lover and enjoys spending time with her pets. As a hobby, she enjoys theatre and has been an active member of her theatre group, performing in shows in various venues from a young age.

# Advocates

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## Ellen White

Advocate

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Ellen joined DWF in October 2024 after being called to the Bar. Prior to joining DWF she developed her professional skills working as a paralegal, and subsequently caseworker, in Housing Legal Aid. In the course of this she worked with vulnerable clients and their families to achieve the best possible outcome in the face of the threat of homelessness. This involved written and oral advocacy, drafting representations and communicating with professionals of all backgrounds.

Ellen has a strong academic background. After studying History at Undergraduate level, Ellen took a Law Conversion course and achieved a Distinction in her LLM in Law and Legal Practice, and then a further Distinction on the Barrister Training Course. Throughout her legal training Ellen was heavily involved in Pro Bono work, focusing on improving access to justice whilst developing her own professional and interpersonal skills.

Ellen is also a commissioned Officer in the British Army Reserves. Through this she continues to hone her leadership, management and communication styles to fit any scenario.

Outside of work, Ellen competes in CrossFit events in teams and as an individual, bakes enough to feed an army and reads anything she can get her hands on.

# Advocates

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Hannah Ritchie

Advocate

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Hannah joined DWF Chambers in August 2024 and welcomes instructions on small claim trials in relation to both liability and quantum, insolvency proceedings, procedural/interlocutory applications and commercial disputes. Hannah was Called to the Bar in 2022 and completed the Bar Vocational Course with LLM with a Merit. Hannah was awarded a First-Class Honours in Law LLB and graduated second in her year.

Prior to joining DWF, Hannah acquired experience handling a wide range of commercial litigation matters as a paralegal at a leading law firm in London. Hannah's experience included commercial dispute resolution, contentious probate and real estate litigation (including commercial and residential landlord/tenant). Hannah has experience drafting pleadings and applications for such matters and attended Court for small claims, interlocutory applications and CMCs.

Hannah joined DWF with previous advocacy experience as a self-employed advocate. She appeared regularly before District Judges on civil matters across the South-Eastern Circuit. Hannah also was a paralegal to a personal injury silk (with a balanced practice of Claimant and Defendant work) and gained experience with schedules of loss and quantum analysis for damages in personal injury cases.

# Advocates

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Paige Dennison

Advocate

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Paige joined DWF Advocacy in January 2021 having spent the years since the completion of her BPTC in a variety of paralegal roles dealing with personal injury, housing, childcare and re-mortgaging so appreciates the demands of case management and handling client's expectations.

Since joining DWF Advocacy, Paige has established her practice predominantly in RTA work in attending small claims trials, CMCs and applications as well as increasing her drafting experience for a variety of matters including; witness statements in support of an applications; witness statements for use at trial; defences and Particulars of Claim as well as advice on the prospects of success.

Whilst Paige's work at Advocacy has largely been Defendant focused, Paige has experience of acting for claimants so is able to assess and understand the position on both sides. Paige is praised by those instructing for the manner in which she takes conduct of the case and by her lay clients for being attentive and supportive pre and post-trial.

Paige also receives an increasing number of instructions to deal with Recovery matters dealing with Bankruptcy Petition hearings and Orders for Sale as she is able to deal with these confidently and concisely in being able to identify quickly what is required in these proceedings.

The majority of her work is dealing with RTA matters, however Paige has expanded her practice into Consumer and Contract matters with an increasing amount of instructions from BT and the commercial team which includes small claims trials, applications as well as the drafting of witness statements and defences.

# Our Clerking Team

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# Our Clerking Team

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**Josh Finn**

Senior Clerk

M +44 (0) 7734 235 421

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Josh joined DWF in 2023 having spent 13 years clerking at Exchange Chambers in Manchester. In conjunction with Clerking, Josh is primarily responsible for the diary management and practice development of all members of the DWF Chambers team and, along with the team of experienced clerks, to ensure the delivery of a first class service to all clients.

Alongside the Director of Clerking & Operations, Josh is responsible for the continued development of clerking practices to ensure the highest quality service at all times. Josh's role involves providing invaluable support to the Director of Clerking & Operations in the management and administration of the team and deputising in his absence.

In his spare time, Josh enjoys all manner of sports, but particularly Football and supports Manchester United. Josh also enjoys spending time with his family and friends and travelling to new places whenever the time allows!

# Our Clerking Team

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Sarah Monaghan

Clerk

E [Sarah.Monaghan@dwf.law](mailto:Sarah.Monaghan@dwf.law)

Sarah joined DWF in 2021.

She has many years experience in the legal profession having previously worked as a clerk in external chambers, a conveyancing assistant in a busy solicitors practice and as a PA to a number of barristers.



Declan Fitzmaurice

Clerk

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Declan joined DWF in September 2022 from Cobden House Chambers, he began his clerking career in 2015 at Byrom Street Chambers.

He is responsible for day to day management of the diary and works closely alongside Josh Finn, Sarah Monaghan and Jonathan Moore.

Outside of work he can be found attending gigs or avidly following Manchester United.

# Our Clerking Team

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**Jonathan Moore**

Clerk

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Prior to joining DWF Chambers, Jonathan previously worked as a paralegal for 5 years.

One year in a small claims firm and the previous 4 within DWF itself, mainly working within Finance Litigation. Outside of work he enjoys going walking, attending as many Manchester United matches as possible and playing guitar.

**Kelcie Atkinson**

Junior Clerk

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Kelcie is responsible for assisting the clerks with a busy day to day management of the diary and dealing with incoming queries from our advocates, solicitors and external clients.

Outside of work, Kelcie enjoys going to the gym, spending time with her friends and family whether it be shopping, attending gigs or watching 90's films and enjoys learning about Ancient History when the time allows.



# The team in action

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As well as substantial experience in CCMCs with fantastic results for clients, the team has a proven track record in final hearings.

Due to our team's exposure to so many such hearings, their experience is likely to far exceed that of external counsel of equivalent seniority. Add to this the speed and ease with which internal counsel/advocates can be booked and instructed, then the advantages of using DWF Chambers are clear and overwhelming.

## Between May 2022 and April 2023:

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- DWF Chambers undertook 3970 court hearings
- DWF Chambers undertook 1900 final hearings
- The team helped to reduce damages claimed by in excess of £3.7m



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