

Lance Harris

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Overview

Lance Harris practises across the full range of Chambers' work including employment, discrimination and commercial law, clinical negligence and personal injury litigation and health, safety and environmental law. He also has experience of public inquiries and was instructed as junior counsel for the National Union of Journalists at the Leveson Inquiry into Press Ethics (led by [John Hendy KC](#)).

Lance commenced practice at Old Square Chambers following successful completion of his pupillage. He has a first-class degree in Environmental Sciences. He completed the Graduate Diploma in Law where he received the essay prize for tort law, and undertook the Bar Vocational Course where he was graded outstanding. Lance has been awarded the Hardwicke, Lord Denning, and Buchanan Scholarships from Lincoln's Inn and was a finalist in the Sir Louis Gluckstein Advocacy competition.

Business & Commercial Law

Lance advises and represents clients in a wide range of contentious and non-contentious commercial matters. His experience includes drafting contractual documentation (including advising on and drafting restrictive covenants), representing clients in claims for breach of contract and matters relating to the sale of goods and provision of services, and advising generally on matters of contractual interpretation and litigation tactics. He strives to deliver robust, practical advice that takes account of the commercial reality his clients face.

Lance has a particular niche in claims relating to commercial agents including claims for unpaid commission, misrepresentation, breach of contract and claims under the Commercial Agents (Council Directive) Regulations 1993. Recent examples of his work in this area include:

- Advising a principal who wished to terminate a commercial agency agreement on grounds of poor performance by the agent.
- Advising an agent on the potential value of their claim for compensation under regulation 17.
- Advising a principal on whether their agent had repudiated the agency agreement through their conduct, and advising generally on the risks and value of any potential claims that may arise if the agency were terminated.
- Advising and representing a German manufacturer in its defence of a claim brought against it by way of a European Application for Payment. The matter raised issues of jurisdiction and the applicability of the Commercial Agents Regulations.
- Drafting a commercial agency agreement for an agent acting for a large manufacturer of roofing products based in the USA (Instructed on a direct access basis).

Lance has written a chapter on the law relating to commercial agents for the *Westlaw Insight Encyclopaedia*.

Clinical Negligence

Lance acts in a wide variety of clinical negligence cases representing both claimants and defendants. He is experienced in drafting particulars of claim and

Expertise

- Administrative & Public Law
- Business & Commercial Law
- Clinical Negligence
- Commercial Law
- Employment & Discrimination
- Environment
- Health & Safety & Environmental Law
- HR Professional Support
- Inquests & Public Inquiries
- Motor Defence
- Personal Injury
- Public Law
- SHE & Criminal Regulatory

Recommendations

"A serene and understated barrister." *The Legal 500 2024*

"Lance has a very calm, collected manner and makes excellent submissions - also great with strategy and easily gets the confidence of clients." *The Legal 500 2023*

"Lance does a fantastic job, leading to a complete vindication of our position. As well as the expected levels of professionalism, Lance was really easy/fun to work with (the witnesses particularly valued his understanding of how difficult it can be as a lay person), and very good at remembering who is the client. He was very happy to muck in, as necessary, in a way that some counsel would feel beneath them!" *The Legal 500 2022*

"My overall impression of the set as a whole is that they are modern in their outlook. They are very approachable and easy to use. They are good at selecting barristers with the right level of experience for a case." *Chambers & Partners*

Key contacts

Joe Kallas

Team Leader

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defences, complex schedules of loss and counter schedules, and other formal court documents. He regularly advises in conference on issues of liability and quantum, as well as representing clients in court and in settlement meetings.

Examples of Lance's work include:

- representing the claimant in a claim for negligently performed knee surgery leading to the requirement for a total knee re-placement;
- representing the Defendant hospital in a claim relating to a medically managed induction of labour resulting in a stillbirth;
- representing the claimant in a claim arising from a failure to diagnose right-sided heart failure and pulmonary hypertension;
- representing a Claimant in respect of a negligently performed osteotomy to correct a hallux valgus.

Lance also has extensive inquest experience. He represented the family in a multi-day inquest arising out of the death of a patient who suffered a pulmonary embolism. One of the main issues concerned the advice given to the deceased in respect of a plaster cast applied to his leg and whether this contributed to the development of a deep vein thrombosis subsequently leading to the embolism.

Employment & Discrimination

Lance appears regularly in Employment Tribunal, High Court and County Court litigation at first instance and on appeal. He is often instructed as sole counsel on multi-day hearings involving unfair and wrongful dismissal, unlawful deduction of wages, TUPE, whistleblowing, breach of contract, holiday and working time claims as well as the full spectrum of discrimination work. He has particular expertise in claims involving an international dimension and is well aware of the challenges, both legal and practical, such claims pose. Lance was involved as junior counsel drafting two separate applications to the European Court of Human Rights concerning trade union membership and the right to strike (led by [John Hendy KC](#))

Lance acts for both employers and employees. His clients range from multinational corporations and NHS trusts to small business start-ups and private individuals. He is a member of the Free Representation Unit, the Employment Law Association and the Industrial Law Society.

Inquests & Public Inquiries

Lance acted as junior counsel to the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) at the Leveson Inquiry into Press Ethics. Prior to commencing his pupillage Lance worked on the Bloody Sunday Inquiry where he was involved in redacting sensitive information from evidence to be published on the inquiry's website. Due to the confidential nature of the work, Lance has been through the MOD's Developed Vetting Procedure.

Lance regularly appears at coroners' inquests.

Personal Injury

Lance represents claimants and defendants in fast and multi-track proceedings in a broad range of areas of personal injury law, including road traffic accidents, employer's liability, product liability and public liability. He is developing a particular specialism in claims involving chronic pain. Lance also regularly appears in coroners' inquests and before the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority.

SHE & Criminal Regulatory

After finishing his degree in Environmental Science, Lance worked for two years as an environmental consultant for Mouchel, a large multi-disciplinary civil engineering consultancy. In this time he was regularly involved in projects relating to environmental impact assessments, contaminated land, air quality, noise issues and drainage law.

Since qualifying as a barrister Lance has gained extensive experience in a variety of environmental cases, including appeals against noise abatement notices and private nuisance claims brought by individuals. In the criminal law sphere, Lance regularly appears as sole counsel in multi-day hearings in the Magistrates' and Crown Courts representing companies charged with environmental and health and safety offences.

Lance also has a niche practice defending individuals charged with the full range

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of motoring offences.

Lance is a member of the United Kingdom Environmental Law Association (UKELA) and sits on UKELA's Water Working Party.

HR Professional Support

Lance has extensive experience of grievance and disciplinary procedures gained from his knowledge of employment law and procedure. He has recently assisted [Michael Ford KC](#) in an internal investigation concerning allegations of misconduct against a CEO of a local authority. He has also had experience of representing both employees and management before internal disciplinary and grievance panels.

Notable Cases

[The Queen On The Application Of Associated Newspapers Limited v. The Rt Hon Lord Justice Leveson](#)

The High Court has dismissed the application for judicial review brought by Associated Newspapers Limited against the decision of to Leveson LJ sitting as Chairman of the Leveson Inquiry whereby...

Professional Recommendations



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