

ISABEL BARTER

Call 2010

Get in touch

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*"driven and intelligent,
she is excellent"*
(Chambers UK)

Practice Overview

Isabel has a flourishing commercial and common law practice, with a particular focus on professional negligence, product liability, property damage, travel and jurisdiction, commercial dispute resolution and commercial fraud.

Isabel has appeared in the High Court, Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court and has experience of mediation.

Isabel has been recommended in both legal directories for a number of years. Recently she has been described as being *"frighteningly intelligent"* (Chambers UK Bar) and having *"piercing insight"* (Legal 500).

Isabel is particularly well regarded for her specialist expertise in professional negligence and product liability. Much of her work in the property damage field, travel and jurisdiction and commercial disputes draws on her broad experience across these other areas and clients often come to her for this combined expertise.

She has been described as having an *"exceptional style with clients"*, being *"bright and user-friendly"* (Chambers UK Bar) and a *"delight to work with"* (Legal 500).

Isabel has now joined *Professional Negligence and Liability* (ed. Mark Simpson QC, Informa) as an expert contributor, alongside Charles Dougherty QC.

In addition, Isabel has recently been made joint General Editor of Bloomsbury's 'Journal of Professional Negligence'.

Prior to coming to the bar, Isabel worked in the charitable sector. She graduated from Cambridge with a BA (Hons) in History. She obtained a Distinction on the GDL and an Outstanding on the BVC. She was also a Major Scholar of the Inner Temple.

Practice areas

Commercial Dispute Resolution
Commercial Fraud
Private International Law & Travel
Product Liability
Professional Negligence
Property Damage

Qualifications

BVC (Outstanding)
Graduate Diploma in Law
(Distinction)
BA (Hons) History

Education

Corpus Christi College, Cambridge
University
City Law School
BPP Law School



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Professional Negligence

Isabel has a flourishing professional negligence practice, acting for both claimants and defendants. She is regularly instructed in cases concerning solicitors and barristers, accountants and financial advisers, mortgage brokers, surveyors and valuers, receivers, approved inspectors, and construction professionals. Her work complements and overlaps with her property damage practice.

Isabel has been listed for some years in both legal directories for professional negligence, where most recently, she has been described as "*hard-working and has brilliant judgment, an absolute delight to work with*" (Chambers UK Bar).

Isabel is currently acting for the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and the Tenant Management Organisation (led by Charles Dougherty QC) in relation to recovery actions arising out of the Grenfell Tower fire.

Isabel is also acting in a £16m claim brought against Law of Property Act receivers alleging negligence in the sale of a development site, *Tolworth Tower v Receivers* (led by Mark Simpson QC).

Other notable cases include acting for a tax advisory firm in a £35m claim alleging dishonest assistance and fraudulent trading (*IAP v Jeffcote Donnison*), a multi-million pound claim against a barrister; and *Mehjoo v Harben Barker*, concerning accountants' negligence.

Isabel is an expert contributor to 'Professional Negligence and Liability' (ed. Mark Simpson QC).

In addition, Isabel is now joint General Editor of Bloomsbury's 'Journal of Professional Negligence', published quarterly.

Product Liability

Isabel has a busy and growing product liability practice, acting for both claimants and defendants. She is ranked again as a leading junior in Chambers UK Bar, where she is described as giving "*practical, commercial and thorough*" advice. Her work complements her property damage expertise.

Isabel's product liability practice includes automotive products, white goods, medical devices, pharmaceutical products, bicycles, toys, gas

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products, domestic electrical appliances, industrial machinery and even parts of a nuclear fusion reactor.

Notable cases include *Wilson v Beko Plc* (concerning whether a consumer could make a claim under safety regulations/s.41 of the Consumer Protection Act 1987) and *Allen v Depuy* (concerning the applicable law and territorial scope of the Consumer Protection Act 1987).

Isabel is currently acting for Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the Tenant Management Organisation (led by Charles Dougherty QC) in relation to recovery actions arising out of the Grenfell Tower fire; for Boston Scientific in relation to multiple claims concerning vaginal mesh; and as sole Counsel for a claim concerning multimillion pound printers which are alleged to be defective.

Click here for links to Isabel's and Charles Dougherty QC's [Short Introduction to the Consumer Protection Act 1987](#) and to Isabel's and Dan Crowley's article on [Causation: Sherlock Holmes, Submarines and the Hard Rock Café](#).

Property Damage

Isabel has a particular focus on property damage and the interrelated areas of professional negligence and product liability. Much of her work in the property damage field draws on her broad experience across these other areas and clients often come to her for breadth of experience.

Recent cases include those concerning damage to domestic and commercial premises caused by fire, floods and explosions, and cases involving nuisance and *igniis suus*.

Isabel is currently acting for Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and the Tenant Management Organisation (led by Charles Dougherty QC) in relation to recovery actions arising out of the Grenfell Tower fire.

Other notable cases include *Wilson v Beko Plc* (concerning whether a consumer could make a claim for property damage under safety regulations/s.41 of the Consumer Protection Act 1987).

Commercial Dispute Resolution

Isabel's commercial practice arises naturally out of her other practice areas, particularly professional negligence, property damage and product liability.

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She has particular expertise of claims arising out of the supply of professional services, contractual 'chains' in relation to construction work, sale of goods claims, and profit-sharing agreements. She has a special interest in questions to companies' vicarious liability having appeared in *Mohamud v WM Morrison Supermarkets plc* in the Supreme Court.

Commercial Fraud

Isabel's commercial fraud expertise complements other areas of her practice, particularly professional negligence. Significant recent cases including defending a professional in a million-pound claim brought in deceit and negligence (sole counsel), acting for tax advisers in relation to a to a £35m claim by their former client for, *inter alia*, advising its client to participate in a tax fraud, dishonest assistance, conspiracy, fraudulent trading and fraudulent breaches of fiduciary duty (led by Mark Simpson QC), and acting for defendants in a multi-million pound claim who were accused of fraudulently creating documents to evidence terms of an oral contract relating to a development site (led by Mark Simpson QC).

Private International Law & Travel

Isabel's conflict of laws practice crosses her product liability, property damage, commercial dispute resolution, professional negligence and personal injury expertise.

Recent cases concerning defective products include: questions of jurisdiction and service out in relation to products imported into the UK; the territorial scope of the Consumer Protection Act 1987 (*Allen v Depuy*); complex issues arising out of large multinational contracts; and being part of a team of junior counsel in a foreign fatal accident claim arising from an allegedly defective tyre (*Groupama*).

Claims involving personal injury include claims involving the Package Travel regulations and accidents sustained outside the UK, including acting recently in a million-pound claim concerning St Lucian local standards. Isabel has also been instructed in relation to claims brought against holding companies for, *inter alia*, the actions of their African subsidiary.

Significant Cases

CNM Estates (Tolworth Tower) Ltd v Simon Peter Carvill-Biggs and Freddy Khalastchi, a £16.6m claim brought against Law of Property Act receivers

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alleging negligence in the sale of a development site (led by Mark Simpson QC) (ongoing).

Wilson v Beko [2019] EWHC 3362 (QB) | [2019] 12 WLUK 105, a seminal case concerning whether a consumer could bring a claim under s.41 of the Consumer Protection Act 1987 (led by Charles Dougherty QC), (the appeal was discontinued).

Instant Access Properties Ltd (In Liquidation) v Jeffcote Donnison LLP (and others) [2018] EWHC 756 (Ch), £35m claim alleging negligence, dishonest assistance and fraudulent trading (led by Mark Simpson QC).

Fultons v Guy Shattock Associates Limited & Others, a multi-million pound claim brought against approved inspectors in deceit and negligence.

Mohamud v WM Morrison Supermarkets plc [2016] UKSC 11, [2016] AC 677, a case concerning the breadth of vicarious liability (led by Benjamin Browne QC and Roger Harris).

Allen & Others v Depuy International Limited [2015] 2 WLR 442, an important new case on the applicable law and the territorial scope of the Consumer Protection Act 1987 (led by Charles Dougherty QC).

Mehjoo v Harben Barker (A Firm) [2014] 4 All ER 806 concerning accountants' negligence, which involved issues relating to the breadth of an accountant's duty, domicile, tax avoidance schemes and remoteness (led by Mark Simpson QC).

Recommendations

Isabel has been recommended in Chambers UK Bar since 2015 (at 5 years' call) and listed in Legal 500 since 2016.

"Excellent at getting on with things in a cost-effective way; she's very pragmatic and commercial, which clients really like." "Hard-working and has brilliant judgement. An absolute delight to work with."

Chambers UK Bar 2021 (Professional Negligence)

"She has an amazing eye for detail and a powerful intellect. Wonderfully clear advice and tremendous work ethic. A real star."

Legal 500 2021 (Professional Negligence)

"She's sharp, enthusiastic and hard-working." "Isabel gets to grips with the facts and the legal issues quickly and provides clear and concise advice." "She is thorough, insightful and very easy to work with."

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Chambers UK Bar 2021 (Product Liability)

"She has a first-class intellect combined with great attention to detail and a thorough understanding of technical evidence."

Legal 500 2021 (Product Liability)

"Frighteningly intelligent. She is extremely diligent and has a mind like a computer, that manages to store a huge raft of information. She is very attentive and is always planning the next step."

Chambers UK Bar 2020 (Professional Negligence)

"She brings a combination of enormous hard work together with piercing insight."

Legal 500 2020 (Professional Negligence)

"She is good at absorbing details quickly and focusing on the critical points. Her advice is practical, commercial and thorough."

Chambers UK Bar 2020 (Product Liability)

"A brilliant junior who is a pleasure to work with and leaves no stone unturned."

Legal 500 2019 (Professional Negligence)

"Very tenacious, instills confidence. When she says a point should be taken you trust her and you're happy to take that into hearings. I see her going places."

Chambers UK Bar 2019 (Professional Negligence)

"Isabel is a very intelligent barrister, with a good dose of tactical nous and common sense."

Chambers UK Bar 2019 (Product Liability)

"Broad knowledge of professional liability law and significant experience in the Court of Appeal and High Court", and "proves particularly strong acting in claims concerning accountants, financial advisers and surveyors".

Legal 500 2018 (Professional Negligence)

"She has an exceptional style with clients and produces a quality of advice well beyond her years." "The way she can digest thousands of pages and quickly pick out the issues is amazing. She is extremely bright and user-friendly."

Chambers UK Bar 2018 (Professional Negligence)

"Super-bright, ferociously hardworking and a delight to work with."

Legal 500 2017 (Professional Negligence)

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"Very user friendly and approachable"

Legal 500 2016 (Professional Negligence)

"Thorough and easy to deal with - she gets completely on top of the problems".

Chambers UK Bar 2016 (Professional Negligence)

"Driven and intelligent, she is excellent", "She is really user-friendly, conscientious and gets to grips with documents like no other junior".

Chambers UK Bar 2015 (Professional Negligence)

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