Catherine Bentley

Call 2025

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Catherine accepts instructions across all areas of Chambers' expertise. She joined Chambers in 2026 following the successful completion of her pupillage under the supervision of Andrew Bershadski, Meghann McTague and William Clerk.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Catherine worked as a headhunter and board advisor alongside training as an athlete with Thames Rowing Club. She attained a First Class degree in History from University College London and a Distinction in Early Modern History from the University of Oxford, where she graduated second in her year.

Expertise

Private International Law

Catherine has experience in conflicts of laws issues, including jurisdiction challenges. She is particularly interested in personal injury and travel claims with a cross-border element. Catherine has represented foreign insurers as sole counsel.

Examples of work in which Catherine assisted as a pupil include:

- **Fox v Steve Fellows Road Haulage Services Ltd [2026] EWHC 1054 (KB)**
- Advising on jurisdiction and applicable law, and subsequently drafting particulars of claim, in a cross-border mesothelioma claim.

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- Preparing for a quantum trial with Portuguese applicable law and experts from eight disciplines.
- Drafting a skeleton argument for a jurisdiction challenge arising from a personal injury suffered abroad.

Insurance

Catherine has a developing insurance practice.

Examples of work in which Catherine assisted as a pupil include:

- Drafting a letter before action addressing coverage, notification, defence funding and fraudulent non-disclosure in the context of directors and officers and civil liability insurance policies.
- Advising on strategy and coverage issues arising out of high-profile claims brought in multiple jurisdictions.
- Advising on causes of action and strategy for a subrogated claim, opining on negligent misstatement, Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 and the doctrine of transferred loss.

Personal Injury

Catherine regularly deals with personal injury matters in her court practice. She is particularly interested in personal injury and travel claims with a cross-border element and has experience representing foreign insurers as sole counsel.

Examples of work in which Catherine assisted as a pupil include:

- Assisting in a liability-only trial focused on the scope and nature of the duty owed by a bailor in the course of a gratuitous loan and causation issues arising from competing mechanisms for an explosion.
- Advising on the nature and scope of duties owed in a public motorsports event involving children.
- Drafting a defence and part 20 claim in relation to a road traffic accident, addressing duties owed under the Highways Act 1980.

Commercial

Catherine has a growing commercial practice.

Examples of work in which Catherine assisted as a pupil include:

- Drafting a confidentiality agreement arising out of high-profile claims brought in multiple jurisdictions.
- Advising on the interpretation and effect of a revised contractual indemnity agreement between two companies.
- Advising on the reasonableness of contractual limitation clauses under the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977.
- Seeking urgent injunctive relief via a Norwich Pharmacal and Gagging Order with respect to allegations of fraud in a banking and cryptocurrency context.

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Group Litigation

Catherine has a developing group litigation practice and is instructed in the ongoing Grenfell Tower litigation.

As a pupil, Catherine assisted in advising on early-stage strategic and procedural issues arising out of an international medical products group claim.

Product Liability

Catherine has a developing product liability practice. During pupillage, Catherine assisted in preparation for a mediation in an international supply chain dispute about a food product.

Clinical Negligence

As a pupil, Catherine assisted in drafting pre-action correspondence, settling pleadings, and preparing for joint settlement meetings and trials, in disputes arising out of serious injury and death.

Cases related to obstetrics and maternity care; psychiatric injury; amputation; spinal injury; emergency medicine; cancer treatment and surgeries; and cardiac treatment and surgeries.

Awards

- Inner Temple Scholar

Education

- BA in History (First Class), University College London
- Master of Studies in History (Distinction), Wolfson College, University of Oxford
- Graduate Diploma in Law (Distinction), City Law School, University of London
- Bar Course (Merit), Inns of Court College of Advocacy

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