

Meghann McTague

Call 2004



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Meghann McTague is a highly experienced senior junior instructed in complex, multi-party disputes with specialist knowledge of cross-border claims.

Meghann has been listed in the main legal directories since 2015. In addition to being described as “simply excellent”, “an exceptional lawyer” and “a delight to work with” she is also singled out for her “impressive command of detail” and her “fantastic organisational skills” in the most recent editions. Meghann has been recognised for having a “great intellect” and an “amazing ability to see the wood for the trees”.

She has several ongoing instructions in large group litigation and has a wealth of experience of dealing with large-scale litigation in a range of contexts.

Prior to joining Chambers in 2009, Meghann was instructed by the Treasury Solicitor as junior counsel to the Rosemary Nelson Inquiry working in a large counsel team in preparation for 14-months of oral hearings in Belfast. Over the past 14 years, Meghann’s involvement in group litigation has continued to expand.

Meghann is presently instructed by the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and the KCTMO as lead junior in the civil litigation arising out of the Grenfell Tower fire involving over 1,200 litigated claims and 22 defendants.

In the field of travel, Meghann is sought after for her expert knowledge of and experience in high-value, large-scale claims, including those under the Package Travel Regulations, and the Athens and Montreal Conventions. She is regularly instructed in complex conflicts of law and jurisdictional disputes.

Her diverse personal injury practice focuses on fatal and catastrophic injury claims. She has a wealth of experience of claims involving the MIB, including arbitration proceedings and technical issues on the agreements.

Before coming to the Bar, Meghann worked as a management consultant for clients in both the public and private sector and practised on the Northern Circuit prior to joining chambers.

In March 2019, Meghann was appointed as a Deputy District Judge on the South Eastern Circuit. She is also a member of the PIBA Executive Committee.

Expertise

Group Litigation

Meghann has a wealth of experience and an excellent reputation for acting in group litigation. Her Chambers and Partners recommendations note her superb organisational skills and clear, strategic approach.

Meghann's current practice involves her being led by specialists in group litigation, as well as appearing as sole counsel, and also sees Meghann leading and managing other juniors within a wider counsel team. Examples of her recent work include:

Grenfell Tower Litigation – junior counsel in the ongoing civil litigation arising out of the fire at Grenfell Tower in 2017. Meghann acts for the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, the owner and landlord of Grenfell Tower, and for the organisation responsible for the management of the Tower. There are over 1,200 litigated claims. Meghann is the lead junior on the civil claims, led by Leigh-Ann Mulcahy KC in a wider counsel team including three other juniors.

Maltese Transport Authority – Meghann is instructed as sole counsel in these claims arising out of a catastrophic accident in Malta involving a collision between an open-top bus in which two people died and many others were injured. Claims arising out of the accident have been issued in several jurisdictions. The proceedings in England and Wales have been issued by several Claimants against a large number of Defendants. Meghann is liaising with the legal teams in other jurisdictions to construct an overall litigation strategy.

Modern slavery claims – Meghann is junior counsel in this ongoing litigation involving novel claims arising out of the UK's largest prosecution for modern slavery. Meghann is led by Leigh-Ann Mulcahy KC and represents an employment intermediary which employed the claimant victims of forced labour.

Transport Incident – Meghann is instructed on behalf of one of several defendants in a series of claims arising out of a head on collision involving a double decker bus. There are multiple claims ranging in gravity, including catastrophic injury, which require co-ordination and strategic oversight. Meghann is advising on the overall litigation strategy.

Travel

Meghann has a well-established practice in Travel and Foreign Claims and has been recognised for her specialist knowledge of this area in the leading legal directories for many years.

She acts across the entire range of travel-related litigation, including claims to which the Montreal and Athens Conventions relate. Meghann's particular expertise is in catastrophic and fatal claims and multi-party litigation.

Meghann has appeared in some of the leading cases in this field including *Lackey v Mallorca Mega Resorts SL* [2020] 1 All ER 558.

Some examples of her recent work include a fatal accident involving a child in Greece; a fatal accident in Spain/France/England involving an alleged Legionnaire's Disease outbreak; an accident at a holiday villa in Spain involving the last reference to the CJEU ever made by the United Kingdom; norovirus outbreaks on board a cruise ship and at a large hotel in Spain; a fatal motorbike accident in Germany following a head-on collision; fatal car accidents in France and Germany; a high profile champagne spray incident at a club in Ibiza causing a serious eye injury; an accident on board a yacht in Italy involving numerous defendants from different European countries; a jet-ski accident in Barbados; several skiing accidents in France.

Notable Travel cases

Dawkins v Carnival PLC [2011] EWCA Civ 1237

Fatal accident involving child in Greece – complex issues relating to jurisdiction and parallel criminal proceedings in Greece.

Norovirus outbreak on board cruise ship.

Norovirus / bacterial infection at large hotel in Spain.

Fatal accident in Spain / France / England involving an alleged Legionnaire's Disease outbreak.

Fatal motorbike accident in Germany following a head-on collision.

Accident on board a yacht in Italy involving numerous defendants from different Member States.

Jet-ski accident in Barbados.

Skiing accident in France.

Road traffic accident in France.

Scalding accident on board a flight from the Caribbean to the UK under the Montreal Convention.

Personal Injury

Meghann's practice focuses on the most serious of injuries and fatal claims. Meghann regularly advises in traumatic brain injury, spinal injury, and amputation cases and has a wealth of experience of claims involving somatoform, pain disorders and other complex psychiatric injuries.

Meghann's instructions in this area of her practice often involve interesting issues relating to claims under the Human Rights Act 1998 against Local Authorities.

Meghann has extensive experience and detailed technical knowledge of claims under the Motor Insurers' Bureau Untraced and Uninsured Drivers' Agreements, including arbitrations under the Untraced Drivers' Agreement.

Recent cases of note include a fatal claim in the Admiralty Court following a death at sea during a round the world yacht race; a claim for negligence under the Human Rights Act 1998 in relation to the death of a child by suicide; a claim relating to scope of damages under the Fatal Accidents Act 1976 where the deceased mother was carer to her disabled child; a high value occupiers' liability claim involving CRPS and complex psychiatric injury; a high value claim under the Uninsured Drivers' Agreement following catastrophic brain injury as a result of a head-on collision; an arbitration under the Untraced Drivers' Agreement involving complex issues as to medical causation; an industrial disease claim by a kitchen assistant employed by the defendant local authority; a fatal accident claim arising out of a local authority's failure under the Highways Act 1980 to prevent flooding on the highway; a skateboarding accident at a festival in Cornwall including a contribution claim against event organiser.

Notable Personal Injury cases

High value occupiers' liability claim involving CRPS and complex psychiatric injury.

High value claim under the Uninsured Drivers' Agreement following major brain injury as a result of a head-on collision.

Recovery claim against producer for injury caused by defective medical equipment.

Arbitration under the Untraced Drivers' Agreement involving complex issues as to medical causation.

Industrial disease claim by kitchen assistant employed by defendant local authority.

Fatal accident claim arising out of local authority's failure under Highways Act 1980 to prevent flooding on the highway.

Skateboarding accident at a festival in Cornwall including a contribution claim against event organiser.

Appointments

- Deputy District Judge on the South Eastern Circuit
- Attorney General's Unified list of Prosecuting Counsel – C Panel (2009)

Education

- BVC (Very Competent), Manchester Metropolitan University
- BA (Hons) Law & Criminology, Sheffield University

Memberships

- LawInSport
- British Association for Sport & Law
- Northern Circuit representative on Young Barristers' Committee (2005-2007)
- Criminal Bar Association
- PIBA

Recommendations

"Meghann has excellent technical ability and commercial awareness." "Her analytical skills, written advice and advocacy skills are very impressive." "Meghann is an excellent lawyer who is thorough in her preparation and gives solid advice." "Meghann is incredibly approachable and goes above and beyond in terms of responding to queries." "Meghann is the go-to barrister for the most complex legal issues in the field; she is an outstanding barrister with an eye for detail." "Meghann is an astonishingly good barrister, possessing the intellect to be able to handle all matters, accompanied with great commercial nous and a wonderfully _____"

personable nature.”

Chambers UK 2024

“She is a phenomenal communicator with the ability to condense large quantities of complex material into a clear, digestible and persuasive narrative. I can’t recommend her highly enough.” “Meghann is an impressive barrister – an eloquent and calm yet forceful advocate, her attention to detail is invaluable and her commitment to her work is endless.”

Legal 500 2024

“She is an excellent advocate.” “Meghann’s case management and approach with opponents is simply excellent.” “She has an impressive command of detail.” “She is very approachable, very hard-working and has a very good analytical brain.” “Meghann is an exceptional lawyer.” “She is a delight to work with.” “She is good at arguing the technical points.”

Chambers UK 2023

“Has a great intellect, an ability to see the wood for the trees and fantastic organisational skills; she is exceptional.” “Great intellect, amazing ability to see the wood for the trees, organisational skills, reliability. She is simply fantastic and is a silk in waiting.”

Legal 500 2023

“Very clever and approachable.” “Technically and forensically excellent, very hard-working and highly regarded by her insurer clients.” “She is technically fantastic, down to earth and a fighter in her cases.” “She is a fierce opponent and gets to the heart of the matter very quickly. She’s also very clever and approachable.”

Chambers UK 2022

“Very clever, able to cut through a mass of detail to what matters, super-reliable and efficient, a pleasure to work with.” “Very personable and excellent with clients.”

Legal 500 2022

“She’s technically excellent and is a very good advocate.” “An extremely approachable barrister who is very good with clients.”

Chambers UK 2021

“Consistency, clarity, excellent oral and writing skills, pragmatic. She is very capable and approachable in this area. Works tirelessly to ensure that a case is watertight.”

Legal 500 2021

“She is very thorough, competent and has an excellent manner with clients.” “She approaches each case with endless enthusiasm and energy which gives her the upper hand against any opponent. She has a pragmatic approach and strips a case down to the key issues underpinning it.”

Chambers UK 2020

“She is fantastic; very down-to-earth yet incredibly bright.”

Legal 500 2020

“She’s very friendly and approachable.” “She has superb technical skills and provides very clear and structured advice. She is always efficient, friendly and pragmatic.”

Chambers UK 2019

“Meghann has a great deal of experience in travel claims. She is very thorough and possesses an admirable can-do attitude.”; “She is absolutely brilliant. She is extremely incisive and willing to assist”

Chambers UK 2018

“She is very down to earth and fights the right points in a case”; “Clients immediately warm to her as she has the ability to assimilate facts and give straightforward advice”; “She is feisty and prepared to argue difficult cases”

Chambers UK 2017

“Eminently approachable and very thorough. In her written advice she explores all aspects and intricacies of the matter”; “Her work is proportionate in that she does what is required on a case-by-case basis and would recognise on a smaller claim that clients aren’t going to swallow large fees”

Chambers UK 2016

“Down to earth, conscientious and hard-working”; “She’s excellent as she recognizes what clients require. She is robust when required and sensitive when required”

Chambers UK 2015