

Sam Stevens

Call 2014



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Sam Stevens' practice covers chambers' core areas, with a focus on employment, professional negligence and product liability.

He is described in Chambers UK as having "excellent attention to detail" and in Legal 500 as "responsive and enthusiastic". Previous directory entries describe Sam as "a great tactician and confident advocate", "personable and approachable", "very knowledgeable" and possessing "excellent drafting skills".

Sam was appointed to the Attorney General's B Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown on 1 September 2023.

Sam is currently acting as junior counsel to the Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry.

Expertise

Employment

Sam is recommended as a Rising Star in employment in Legal 500 2022, where he is described as "responsive and enthusiastic" who does "a good job of getting to grips with the history of the matter and presenting the argument clearly" in "the professional manner required by the matter".

Sam regularly acts for a broad range of clients, including individual employees and employers, SMEs, FTSE and multinational companies, local authorities and central government departments. He was seconded to the employment department at Mishcon de Reya between March – April 2020 and June – August 2021,

where he provided advice and acted as an advocate in a wide range of employment disputes.

Notable Employment cases

A v A Company

Represented an actuary in a whistleblowing case which concerned disclosures made about a risk analysis model, including its ability to comply with customers' obligations under the Solvency II directive.

B v An Employer

Defending an employer in a case concerning a dismissal for allegations of sexual misconduct where the criminal charges resulted in a directed acquittal.

C v A Company

Acting for the employer in a claim brought by a dismissed director who alleges to have made protected disclosures relating to representations made by other directors on the company's solvency.

AT v (1) An Employer (2) A Parent Company

Acted for the parent company in an action for procuring a breach of a contract of employment.

D v An Employer

Acted for an alleged individual employer in a wrongful dismissal, where one of the central issues was whether the Tribunal had jurisdiction to determine whether a settlement agreement not regulated by 1996 Act was voidable on the basis of duress.

Inquiries

Sam accepts instructions to act on inquiries and investigations. He is currently instructed to act as junior counsel to the Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry.

Clinical Negligence

Sam is ranked as Up and Coming in clinical negligence in Chambers UK 2022, where his is described as having "excellent attention to detail"; providing "excellent written advice"; and being "very user-friendly", "a great head for figures and...a top choice for quantum disputes". He was described in the 2021 edition as "a great tactician and confident advocate", "personable and approachable", "very knowledgeable" and possessing "excellent drafting skills".

He is regularly instructed as sole or junior counsel in complex and high value cases. Sam has extensive experience in drafting pleadings and advising on all aspects of liability and quantum.

Sam is known as a confident advocate, both in court and whilst representing clients in round table meetings and mediations.

Notable Clinical Negligence cases

XYA v An NHS Trust

Sam is acting as junior to Michael de Navarro QC in this multi-million quantum only wrongful birth claim concerning a child born with severe physical and cognitive disabilities.

LC v Northwest Ambulance Service NHS Trust & An'r

This claim concerned an alleged failure to diagnose a fracture that caused tetraplegia, where liability and quantum were in dispute. Sam was led by Bradley Martin QC and also successfully represented the defendants at a relief from sanctions application. The claim settled prior to trial.

AA v An NHS Trust

Sam was junior to Michael de Navarro QC in this liability and quantum dispute concerning a catastrophic haemorrhage following a brain biopsy. The matter settled out of court.

MdR v (1) Ramsay (2) NHS Commissioning Board

Sam successfully represented the NHS Commissioning Board in this causation and quantum trial. The main issue concerned the timing of a retinal detachment.

NC v An NHS Trust

Sam was led by Michael de Navarro QC in this multi-million quantum only wrongful birth claim concerning a child born with spina bifida. The matter settled out of court.

SK v Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust

This was a clinical negligence claim where it was alleged that clinicians had failed to diagnose retained products of conception. Sam represented the successful defendant at trial.

MG v Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Sam represented the NHS Trust in a claim alleging a failure to fit and / or manage a temporary epicardial pacing system properly. The judge found that the care provided by the Trust's clinicians was exemplary.

Professional Negligence

Sam has a broad professional negligence practice that covers a wide range of professions, including solicitors, barristers, surveyors, architects, buildings inspectors and art investment advisors. He is an experienced advocate, with regular instructions to represent parties at interim hearings and multi-track trials as sole counsel.

Product Liability

Sam has a busy product liability practice, including both personal injury and property damage claims. He handles claims involving a wide range of products, but has particular expertise in cases involving medical devices, where he draws on his experience in clinical negligence.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Sam worked on CPA claims at a large solicitors' firm. Sam has knowledge of the challenges of GLOs, having been involved in a number of group claims across various areas of law.

Private International Law

Sam regularly advises and represents clients where questions of jurisdiction or applicable law arise. He was instructed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in both the Kenya Emergency Group Litigation and the Cyprus Colonial Litigation, which considered a number of interesting issues of private international law.

Awards

- Exhibition Award, Inner Temple

Education

- BPTC (Outstanding), Kaplan Law School
- LLM, Hughes Hall, University of Cambridge
- LLB (First), University of Warwick

Memberships

- PNBA
- ELA

Recommendations

"Sam has excellent analytical skills and a strong ability to negotiate." "A barrister of choice both by solicitors and clients alike, he is professional and personable."

Chambers UK 2024

"He is an excellent barrister; sensitive with witnesses, very friendly and approachable. He is thorough in his assessments and is excellent at establishing strategy."

Legal 500 2023

"Sam gives clear and robust advice and is a pleasure to work with." "His written work and advice is excellent." "Sam is intelligent and thoughtful. He is able to work out where the vulnerabilities in a case are."

Chambers UK 2023

"He has excellent attention to detail."

"Sam has a great head for figures and is a top choice for quantum disputes. He provides excellent written advice and is very user-friendly."

Chambers UK 2022

"Sam is responsive and enthusiastic. He does a good job of getting to grips with the history of the matter and presenting the argument clearly. He works in the professional manner required by the matter."

Legal 500 2022

"Personable and approachable."

"Very knowledgeable and has excellent drafting skills."

"He's a great tactician and confident advocate."

Chambers UK 2021