

# Catherine Knowles

Call 2004



## Clerks

 Leigh Daniels  
 0161 817 2768

 Joe Mawson  
 0161 817 2753

 Olivia Cleere  
 0161 817 7138

## Appointments

- Junior Counsel to the Crown – Regional Panel A

## Memberships

- Employment Law Bar Association
- Employment Lawyers' Association
- Personal Injury Bar Association
- Licensed for Direct Access

## Education

- BA Jurisprudence, St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford (Class II.i, 2002)
- Bar Vocational Course, Inns of Court School of Law (Outstanding, 2004)

## Personal Injury: Defence

Catherine's practice focuses on high value multi-track claims and she is primarily instructed on behalf of defendants.

She is on the Attorney-General's Regional A Panel of Junior Counsel and she is regularly instructed to act on behalf of government departments and agencies in cases concerning her areas of practice.

Many of the cases in which Catherine is instructed involve six figure claims for future loss of earnings and / or future loss of pension. She is regularly instructed as sole defence counsel in claims valued at over £1 million. She has particular expertise in military claims.

Catherine is also very familiar with the issues that arise in cases involving consideration of the employment relationship or employment law issues, including claims involving allegations of psychiatric injury due to stress at work, claims under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, and claims involving a dispute as to whether the Claimant's injury constitutes a disability within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010.

She has been instructed to represent organisations alleged to be vicariously liable for alleged historic sexual and physical abuse.

Catherine has a well-earned reputation for her organisation, her teamwork and her ability to merge sensitivity with strength when instructed.

## Defence Cases

Recent instructions include:

- Representing the Ministry of Defence in a number of claims brought by servicemen and women arising out of alleged injuries sustained during service (including significant orthopaedic injuries, traumatic brain injury, and non-freezing cold injuries). Such cases often involve expert evidence from a number of different disciplines, and claims for the loss of a chance of longer military service and associated earnings and pension.
- Representing defendants in claims where issues of potential exaggeration / malingering and fundamental dishonesty have arisen, in particular cases involving surveillance and contested expert evidence.
- In a number of claims, acting on behalf of defendant organisations alleged to be vicariously liable for incidents of historic sexual abuse. Catherine is experienced in advising on the issues that arise in such cases, in particular: limitation; vicarious liability; the challenges of addressing liability evidence in historic cases; evaluating medical evidence concerning the presence of significant psychiatric injury; and responding to substantial claims for future loss of earnings and pension.
- Acting on behalf of defendants in cases involving claims of alleged psychiatric injury resulting from alleged stress at work, and claims brought under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.

## Recommendations

“Catherine is an excellent advocate; calm, precise, and she presents her arguments in a clear and persuasive manner.”

**The Legal 500 2024**

“We really value Catherine’s advice and level of expertise. Her attention to detail is second to none and she views everything through a commercial and reputational lens.”

**Chambers and Partners 2024**

“Catherine is very experienced and well versed in military claims. She is incredibly thorough in her work and advice. In addition, she is very approachable and a very good advocate. One of the best barristers operating in the field.”

**The Legal 500 2023**

“Catherine is thorough, has great attention to detail and is a particularly good advocate. Not only is she a fantastic barrister she is very approachable. Catherine deals with high value military claims and is able to provide clear and concise advices, deals with quantum matters effectively and produces good results.”

**The Legal 500 2022**

“An exceptional barrister who’s attention to detail is second to none. Very logical stance and would not hesitate to recommend to anyone needing an employment barrister in the Northern circuit.”

**The Legal 500 2022**

“Very straightforward and strong on her feet. A strong and approachable barrister.”

**Chambers and Partners 2021**

“Catherine is a particularly thorough and efficient advocate, who we know we can rely on to perform and achieve good results.”

“She has particular expertise in military claims.”

**The Legal 500 2021**

“Efficient, thorough and articulate.”

**The Legal 500 2020**

“Noted for her expertise in discrimination claims.”

**The Legal 500 2018/19**

“Recommended for discrimination matters.”

**The Legal 500 2017**

“A tenacious advocate with a great eye for detail and commercial acumen.”

**The Legal 500 2016**

“Her workload spans areas such as whistleblowing, discrimination and TUPE.”

**The Legal 500 2015**