

# The Professional Liability Group

WILBERFORCE  
CHAMBERS



# Approachable

Wilberforce puts the needs and interests of its clients first: we are team players, well versed in listening to others, operating together with solicitors and clients and addressing their concerns as a priority.

Experts in communication and experts in mediation, we offer our clients every chance of achieving the best commercial outcome.



## The Professional Liability Group

The Professional Liability Group at Wilberforce Chambers includes leading silks and juniors in the field, many of whom are regularly recommended in the various legal journals and directories. We have substantial experience in dealing with actions for and against a wide variety of professionals including solicitors, barristers, accountants, auditors, actuaries, construction professionals (including engineers, architects, surveyors and project managers), financial practitioners (including specialist tax and pension advisers), company directors and insurance brokers.

What sets us apart is the additional expertise we have in areas of law in which these practitioners often have to operate. We combine our experience in professional negligence with knowledge of contracts, trusts, tax, complex corporate structures and transactions, pension regulation, land law, financial services, construction law, intellectual property matters and insurance. We are therefore uniquely placed to address our clients' needs at a deeper level than our competitors.

We also have experience at all levels in dealing with regulatory issues (both at first instance and on appeal) arising in respect of a variety of different professional bodies.

We are always conscious of the need to give clear, practical and realistic advice and pride ourselves on our ability to do so. This, combined with a rigorous approach to legal issues and advocacy skills learnt over many years, ensures that we stand out in this field and that we are regularly chosen to act (whether alone or as silk and junior together) in particularly complex and difficult cases. In all cases, whether large or small, we are aware of the importance of team work and we seek to encourage everyone within the team to contribute as much as possible to the eventual outcome. We have found this to be particularly important in cases where so much often depends on the views of one or more experts, and on the approach those experts take to the preparation of their reports.

Given our understanding of the needs of our clients and our experience of the litigation process, we make no apology for seeking to be closely involved in all aspects of litigation, from the earliest stages, to the ultimate determination. We believe strongly that as specialists in professional negligence and experienced litigators we can and do add value at every stage as part of the litigation team.

# The Professional Liability Group

Work we regularly undertake on behalf of our clients:

- Advisory work on the merits of potential proceedings, whether in conference, over the telephone or in writing.
- Advising on the content of, drafting and settling pre-action protocol letters with a view to setting out the issues between the parties clearly and succinctly at an early stage and ensuring compliance with the relevant protocol.
- Drafting statements of case which accurately and persuasively set out the client's case.
- Advising on the content of and settling reports to insurers, ensuring that all options are identified and that proper attention is given to the costs consequences of those options.
- Appearing at all forms of hearings.
- Advising in conference or otherwise on evidence, tactics, merits and settlement and continually reviewing these issues over the course of an action.
- Advising on the content of and settling witness statements.
- Liaising with experts with a view to understanding in detail the expert issues involved and assisting the experts in expressing those issues, and their opinions, clearly in their reports.

- Advising on the content of, drafting and settling Mediation Statements with a clear understanding of the importance of taking a firm position whilst at the same time exhibiting a willingness to settle on the right terms.
- Appearing at, and advising during the course of, mediations.
- Preparing for and appearing at trials and subsequent appeals.

**The core members of our Professional Liability Group are:**

**Silks:**

Jules Sher QC  
John Martin QC  
Ian Croxford QC  
David Phillips QC  
Christopher Nugee QC  
John Wardell QC  
Jonathan Seitler QC  
Michael Tennet QC  
Tom Lowe QC  
James Ayliffe QC  
Joanna Smith QC

**Juniors**

Gabriel Fadipe  
Rupert Reed  
Tiffany Scott  
Nikki Singla  
Edward Sawyer  
Jonathan Davey  
Andrew Mold

**Many of the core members also act as Mediators and Arbitrators and are available to determine early neutral evaluations.**

Wilberforce offers first class innovative thinking and expert legal analysis where mastery of the detail does not obscure the 'big picture' requirement for practical and commercial advice.

# Innovative

We are specialist advocates ideally suited to actions involving the liability of professionals.



In addition to the core members of the Professional Liability Group, Wilberforce Chambers has a strong and well known group of Chancery practitioners working in a number of specialist fields, all of whom have had experience of handling professional negligence cases in the context of these areas. Information about these members of Chambers, some of whom are also recommended in the legal directories under "professional negligence", is available on our website at [www.wilberforce.co.uk](http://www.wilberforce.co.uk) and on request from our clerks.

We have an excellent clerking team who are always happy to deal with any queries you may have about the Professional Liability Group and its individual members. They approach all queries with care and attention and aim at all times to ensure that we are competitive with fee quotes.

Please do not hesitate to contact one of the members of the senior clerking team should you want further information:

**Declan Redmond** - Senior Clerk

E-mail: [dredmond@wilberforce.co.uk](mailto:dredmond@wilberforce.co.uk) Direct Line: 020 7304 2856

**Danny Smillie** - First Junior

E-mail: [dsmillie@wilberforce.co.uk](mailto:dsmillie@wilberforce.co.uk) Direct Line: 020 7304 2857

**Tanya Tong** - First Junior

E-mail: [ttong@wilberforce.co.uk](mailto:ttong@wilberforce.co.uk) Direct Line: 020 7304 2864

**Wilberforce Chambers**

8 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3QP

**Tel** · +44 (0)20 7306 0102

**Fax** · +44 (0)20 7306 0095

**Email** · [chambers@wilberforce.co.uk](mailto:chambers@wilberforce.co.uk)

**Online** · [www.wilberforce.co.uk](http://www.wilberforce.co.uk)