

Simon McCann

1996 Gray's Inn, mccann@deanscourt.co.uk



Education	Professional Associations	Appointments
The University of Leeds - International History and Politics BA Hons (1st Class)	Personal Injuries Bar Association British Association for Sport and Law	Football Association General Panel Member Former Panel Disciplinary Commissioner Birmingham County Football Association British Canoeing Disciplinary, Disputes and Appeal Panel member Sports Resolutions Pro-bono Panel

Areas of Specialism
Sports Law
Civil and Insurance Fraud
Personal Injury and Insurance
Data Protection and emerging technologies
Arbitration
Inquests
Motor Claims
Employer's Liability and Public Liability
Contempt & Private Prosecutions

Simon McCann specialises in sports law, and personal injury cases with an emphasis on complex issues of fraud and liability. In fraud work, he has many years of trial experience.

Sports Law

Simon has a strong Sports practice across a range of sectors and disciplines.

His main specialisations are in regulatory, anti-doping and safeguarding cases.

Crisis management

Simon regularly deals with "crisis" and "reputational" management situations, when an event or incident causes a governing body, club or athlete to face a range of sanctions, and/or adverse press coverage. The key in such cases is an immediate, robust and proportionate response, together with an ability to plan the route ahead. Simon is happy to deal informally first in such cases, and acknowledges that access to advise quickly is vital.

Anti-doping

In anti-doping, Simon has represented Premier League football players, professional Rugby League players and numerous Olympic athletes who have faced doping charges brought by the Football Association, UKAD, World Athletics and other regulatory bodies. He has previously represented Dr Richard Freeman (formerly of British Cycling and Team Sky) and Dillian Whyte (heavyweight boxer). Simon's experience of Doping and Integrity prosecutions is international and national.

Safeguarding

Recent safeguarding work includes investigations held by the Lawn Tennis Association, the British Horse Racing Authority and the England and Wales Cricket Board. He has also recently advised on appeals against the withdrawal of National Lottery funding from an elite athlete.

Sports injuries

In combination with his work in the Personal Injury sector, Simon has represented many players and clubs in "player-on-player" incidents, such as this:

<https://www.theguardian.com/fo...>

Football

Simon has for many years represented football clubs and players across a wide range of work - disciplinary, regulatory, safeguarding, advisory and insurance. Simon is a member of the Football Association's General Panel. He was formerly an Independent

Disciplinary Commissioner for the Birmingham County Football Association, and has a thorough understanding of the game (also being a FA qualified coach).

He is able to deal with all aspects of football club governance. He has, for example, represented a football club Chair who was made the subject of sanction for social media posts.

Other work

Simon is a Chair of British Canoeing's Disciplinary, Dispute and Appeals Panel, and has dealt with a number of Olympic Selection Appeals.

Simon is a member of the Sports Resolutions Pro-bono Panel, and is able to provide and representation in all areas relating to anti-doping, discipline and safeguarding.

He is a member of the British Association for Sport and Law.

Personal Injury

Simon has represented many insurers in catastrophic and serious personal injury cases both with Leading Counsel and alone. Simon is experienced in joint settlement meetings and negotiations.

He is well-known and highly-regarded for dealing with high-value cases in which allegations of fundamental dishonesty are to be made. This often involves the interplay of complex medical evidence, surveillance and other investigative techniques (such as social media).

Catastrophic Personal Injury

Simon has represented many insurers in catastrophic personal injury cases both with Leading Counsel and alone. Experienced in joint settlement meetings and negotiations. Simon has an interest in complex issues of damages.

Fraud

Simon's fraud practice is insurance-based in high-value, multi-track cases.

He is a specialist in this area, with over 25 years' of experience of fraud trials and the investigation of fraud, in which time has many hundreds of fraud cases to trial. He has advised motor insurers, employers' insurers and local authorities on all aspects of fraudulent claims, and has assisted in the development of a number of specialist fraud units. Simon has developed a significant reputation defending fraudulent claims in both the motor and casualty fields.

Simon's recent emphasis has been on cases in which insurers seek findings of contempt of Court, or in which they seek to bring private prosecutions. He has been involved in a number of high-profile cases:

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/...>

[https://www.insurancetimes.co....](https://www.insurancetimes.co...)

Simon has spoken regularly at national events and at a local level on the subject of fraudulent claims.

Simon has a particular interest in cases in which surveillance or social media evidence are deployed. He is also able to advise on the use of developing technologies such as analytics and telematics. Issues over data protection in insurance and fraud work are also within his expertise.

Areas of special interest:

Fraud rings

Staged accidents

Fraudulent claims in the workplace

Fraudulent claims against local authorities

Contempt proceedings

Article:

Covid-19 & FD Trials

Notable Cases

UKAD v Dr Richard Freeman; Dr Richard Freeman v GMC (on appeal)

Practice Area:

Presently representing Dr Richard Freeman, former Team Sky and British Cycling doctor, in his anti-doping case before the National Anti-Doping Panel. Simon is also being led by Mary O'Rourke QC in Dr Freeman's appeal of his erasure from the medical register

UK Sport v E (2021)

Practice Area:

Appeal against withdrawal of Elite Athlete's Lottery funding

England and Wales Cricket Board v B (2021)

Practice Area:

Appeal against safeguarding ban for a cricket coach

British Horse Racing Authority v G (2021)

Practice Area:

Safeguarding appeal against BHRA permanent ban

Lawn Tennis Association v M (2021)

Practice Area:

Safeguarding/bullying hearing for a long-standing professional tennis coach

Zurich Insurance Plc v Barnicoat & Craze [2020] EWHC 3127 (QB)

Practice Area:

Represented Zurich Insurance in a contempt of Court case which received national publicity

The Football Association v X (2020)

Practice Area:

Represented a Premier League player in an anti-doping, "social" drugs case

KB v Bury Football Club (2020)

Practice Area:

Representing the (EFL) football club in a personal injury claim brought by an ex-player

UKAD (RFL) v AC (2020)

Practice Area:

Represented a professional RFL player faced with an anti-doping charge

World Athletics v DN (2020)

Practice Area:

Represented a Belorussian Olympic-standard Athlete faced with an anti-doping charge

International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) v VG (2019)

Practice Area:

Represented a Panamanian Olympic-standard track athlete faced with a charge of manipulation of his race results

International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) v IK (2019)

Practice Area:

Represented a Greek Olympic-standard athlete faced with an anti-doping charge

International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) v AK (2019)

Practice Area:

Represented a world-record holding Kenyan long-distance runner in a blood-doping case

AXA Insurance v Masud [2019] EWHC Civ 479 (QB)

Practice Area:

Represented AXA Insurance in contempt of Court proceedings brought against the Defendant. The Defendant has pursued a large loss personal injury claim, which had been procedurally struck out once surveillance evidence disclosed the Defendant working and driving the family car - neither of which he had been claimed to be able to do. AXA brought contempt proceedings. The Deputy High Court Judge sentenced Masud to 16 months' immediate imprisonment in Pentonville Prison. This is one of the largest sentences for contempt that has been seen. An attempt to set aside the sentence and purge Masud's contempt failed before the High Court.

Ian Hume v Chris Morgan & Sheffield UTD (2011)

Practice Area:

Acted for the Defendants in this well-publicised case. The Claimant suffered a fractured skull whilst playing for Barnsley against Sheffield United, and alleged that the use of the elbow was either deliberate or reckless

more

What the Directories say

“He is a strong defender and very competent at dealing with higher value cases.”

Chambers & Partners, 2024

“Simon is a fantastic advocate.”

Chambers & Partners 2024

Simon's advocacy is exceptional. He is a go-to barrister in respect of any matter where thorough cross-examination of a witness is required at trial, and his advocacy technique is unique and intelligent.

Legal 500, 2024

Simon is an excellent strategist with a credible approach to cases, especially where there is a fraud element. He is a team player, accessible and commercially minded.

Legal 500, 2023

Simon is accessible and engages fully with cases.

Chambers & Partners 2023

Simon is an excellent barrister who engages fully with cases.

Chambers & Partners, 2023

A brilliant and fierce advocate.

He is willing to fight your corner very hard and he is excellent for cases involving elements of fraud.

Chambers and Partners, 2022

An excellent strategist who is accessible and approachable. Always brings a detailed analysis of the evidence allowing a credible strategy on CAT fraud cases from the outset.

Legal 500, 2022

He has an excellent manner and will assess the prospects of a case and give it to you straight with sound, fair advice. He brings utmost technical excellence as well.

He's been on the circuit for a long time and is a good insurance fraud barrister.

Chambers and Partners, 2021

He is excellent at cross examination in Casualty Fraud Trials. Picking out and focusing on the inconsistencies to support Fundamental Dishonesty findings. He is always willing to go the extra mile.

Legal 500, 2021

Builds an excellent rapport with clients.

Legal 500, 2020

Very well established and very much favoured by the insurance industry. His pleadings are good and very accurate. He's good on his feet in court.

Very well prepared and good fun to deal with.

Chambers and Partners

He has a very good manner in court, he is a very reassuring and natural presence in front of the judge.

Chambers UK

He's the kind of person you would want on your side in a courtroom fight - quick on his feet and not afraid to ask the difficult questions.

He is straightforward and candid in his views. That is appreciated by clients, who want to be told how it is.

Chambers UK

Commentators note his particular expertise in cases of industrial disease.

Chambers UK

He provides prompt advice, has a good approach and is very knowledgeable. He is helpful and strong in both discussions and negotiations. He is very user-friendly and down-to-earth.

Chambers and Partners

He gets to the heart of issues quickly.

Legal 500

Recommended.

Legal 500

He is a very tenacious street fighter who will get stuck in and scrap it out.

Chambers UK

He's the kind of person you'd want on your side in a courtroom fight: he's quick on his feet and not afraid to ask the difficult questions. He is a details man who will pick out things that pass me by.

Chambers UK

A natural trial advocate.

Legal 500

He is very pragmatic, realistic and keen to find solutions. He provides very sound advice and is reassuring with clients.

Chambers and Partners

Excellent.
His performance at trial is as detailed as it is masterly.
He's very thorough and presents information very well to clients.

Chambers and Partners

Strong, effective Counsel, kept very busy.

Legal 500

A true professional who excels in the courtroom.
Very affable and pleasant.

Chambers and Partners

One of the best when it comes to cross-examination, he always cuts straight to the important issues in the case.

Chambers and Partners

'Punchy but measured' approach to personal injury litigation.

Chambers and Partners

He's very good and has a reassuring, natural manner before the judge.

Chambers UK

Knowledgeable and approachable, and deals with papers speedily.

Legal 500

A specialist in personal injury and insurance fraud.' (Personal injury and clinical negligence)

Legal 500

Offers expertise in industrial disease cases.

Chambers UK

Recommended.

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