

Dominic Ruck Keene

Call: 2012



Dominic Ruck Keene has a varied practice in all the core areas of Chambers' work, in particular inquests, personal injury and clinical negligence. He also has specialist practices in employment and equality law, child abuse compensation, cyber and data protection. As a member of the Attorney General's B Panel, he is regularly instructed by a number of different Government departments in cases involving a wide spectrum of different areas of law.

As a former Regular Army officer and serving senior Reservist (currently a Lt Colonel posted as SO1 Reserves at London District), Dominic has a particular interest and expertise in all nature of cases involving service personnel, as well as National Security more generally.

"A bright intellectual counsel, easily able to see the complexities of cases and coherently explain those issues to the lay clients in a kind, sensitive and sensible way whilst sympathising with their complex needs and injuries."

Legal 500 2024

"A junior with a personable yet direct approach to litigation."

Legal 500 2024

"Very sure on his feet, in command of his brief, and able to read the Court and provide the judges with arguments that they will be receptive to."

Legal 500 2023

Inquests

Dominic represents the entire spectrum of families, organisations, GPs, and healthcare providers at inquests. He has developed a particular specialism in inquests involving mental health issues and/or detained individuals, and regularly appears at Article 2 and jury inquests into prison deaths as well as those concerning formally and informally admitted mental health patients, as well those being treated in the community. Building on his personal injury practice, he also has a particular expertise in inquests involving assessment and management of risk.

Selected Cases

- **Inquest into the death of Andrew Phillips.**
- **Inquest into death of X:** Acted for Air Ambulance Service at inquest into resuscitative hysterotomy.
- **Inquests into death of X and Y:** Acted for Air Ambulance Service at two separate inquests into deaths following fatal stabbings.
- **Inquest into the death of Nimo Younis:** Represented NHS Trust at the inquest into the death while AWOL of an informally admitted mental health patient.
- **Inquest into the death of Osman Ahmednur:** Represented NHS trusts at the inquest into the suicide of former Eritrean refugee.
- **Inquest into the death of Richard Handley:** Appeared for family in inquest into the death of a 33 year old man with Down's Syndrome and mental health issues who was living in supported housing and died from constipation.
- **Inquest into the death of JB:** Represented NHS Trust at the inquest into the death of patient in a mental health hospital.
- **Inquest into the death of SG:** Appeared for NHS Trust at the inquest into the death of patient from accidental overmedications.
- **Inquest into the death of HL:** Acted for family at inquest into the suicide of detained mental health patient while on s.17 leave.
- **Inquest into the death of Barry Tucker:** Appeared for family in inquest into death of a cancer patient who died having been discharged prematurely.
- **Inquest into the death of Daniel Chapman:** Appeared for NHS Trust in inquest into death of mental health patient who died while being treated in the community and living in supported accommodation from an overdose of legal highs.
- **Inquest into the death of George Sutcliffe:** Appeared for family in inquest into death of elderly patient where issues over whether should have been discharged earlier and avoided terminal decline while admitted.
- **Inquest into the death of Glenn Jordan:** Appeared for family in inquest into death of informal admitted mental health patient who hung himself while in hospital.
- **Inquest into the death of Davindar Lal Seth:** Appeared for family in inquest into the death of a patient who aspirated vomit while in intensive care and suffered cardiac arrest.
- **Inquest into the death of Sally Ahmed-Chamberlain:** Appeared for hospital in inquest into suicide of someone previously under care of mental health services.
- **Inquest into the death of Henry Hughes:** Appeared for hospital in inquest into death of informal admitted mental health patient who hung himself while on leave from hospital.

Clinical Negligence

Dominic acts for both claimants and defendants in a broad range of clinical negligence claims.

Against the background of having been led by Lizanne Gumbel KC in achieving a successful settlement for hundreds of claimants against a consultant breast surgeon (**Mr Ian Paterson**) for negligent treatment spanning a decade given to both NHS and private patients, Dominic has developed a particular expertise in cases involving private healthcare providers and informed consent claims. He is currently instructed in a large number of vaginal mesh claims being brought against Ian Lindsey/ Tony Dixon and Nuffield/ Spire Health.

He has particular expertise in claims involving:

- Cerebral palsy and other catastrophic birth related injuries
- Psychiatric injury (both primary and secondary victims)
- Orthopaedic injuries (in particular delayed diagnosis and negligent treatment of fractures)
- Delayed diagnosis and treatment of cancer
- Patients detained in prison or under the mental health act
- Injuries to reproductive organs and 'loss of a chance' claims
- Cauda equina
- Tropical diseases
- Adverse medication reactions

Personal Injury

Dominic represents both claimants and defendants across the entire spectrum of personal injury litigation, in particular Fatal Accident claims and high value employer's liability and other workplace injuries (including harassment, stress and industrial disease related conditions), as well as injuries resulting from data breaches.

Selected Cases

- **Cyprus Emergency Litigation:** Instructed on behalf of the MOD and the FCO in a significant case brought by 35 claimants alleging that they were physically abused by the Security Forces during the Cyprus Emergency.
- **Paterson Inquiry:** Led by Lizanne Gumbel KC for the claimants in respect of test cases being brought on behalf of hundreds of patients against a consultant breast surgeon (Mr Ian Paterson) for negligent treatment spanning a decade given to both NHS and private patients.
- **Snatch/ Pinzgauer:** Led by David Evans KC for the MOD in the lead test cases for the application of negligence to combat operations following the decision of the Supreme Court in *Smith & Ors v Ministry of Defence (No 2)* regarding the extent of the MOD's duty of care under Article 2 to soldiers on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Child Abuse Compensation Law

Dominic represents victims of historic child abuse in actions against local authorities, organisations and individuals.

Employment & Equality

Dominic regularly represents both employers and employees in disciplinary and employment proceedings, in particular in cases alleging wrongful dismissal or discrimination on the basis of disability and race.

Human Rights

As a former Regular Army officer he has a particular interest and expertise in cases involving the military and national security issues. He is frequently instructed by the MOD in cases brought on behalf of injured or killed servicemen alleging breach of their Article 2 rights. Dominic was led by David Evans QC in the lead test cases for the application of negligence to combat operations following the decision of the Supreme Court in *Smith & Ors v Ministry of Defence (No 2)* regarding the extent of the MOD's duty of care under Article 2 to soldiers on operations.

Dominic is regularly instructed by individual claimants (and their families) as well as defendant government departments in a claims brought against a variety of state bodies alleging breach of their Article 2 and Article 3 rights.

Immigration

Dominic frequently represents the Home Secretary in immigration proceedings before both the Immigration Appeal Tribunal and the Upper Tribunal, as well as in the Administrative Court.

Data Protection & Cyber

Dominic represents claimants and defendants in cases against healthcare providers, local authorities and other public bodies relating to breach of confidence, misuse of private information and breach of the Data Protection Act. He also advises clients regarding the implementation of GDPR and the management of data loss incidents.

Listen to Dominic discuss the right to be forgotten on episode 32 of our podcast Law Pod UK [here](#).

Direct Access

Dominic accepts [direct access instruction](#) from lay clients across a range of practice areas, with a particular interest in representing families at inquests as well as data protection claims. For more information, please view his profile [here](#).

Appointments

- Attorney General's B Panel (September 2021 – present)
- Attorney General's C Panel (2018 – 2021)
- ADR Group Accredited Mediator (2012)

Awards

- Lord Denning Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn (2011)
- Lord Haldane Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn (2005)
- Smith Prize for History & College Scholar, St Peter's College (2002)
- British Army University Bursar (2001)
- British Army Sixth Form Scholar (1998)

Education

- Advanced International Advocacy Course, Keble College, Oxford (2016)
- BVC (Very Competent), BPP, London (2012)
- MA in War in the Modern World (Merit), King's College London (2011)
- Graduate Diploma in Law (Distinction), City University (2005)
- MA (Oxon) in Modern History (First Class), St Peter's College, Oxford (2004)

Memberships

- ALBA
- PIBA
- PNBA

Publications

- [Does the lockdown breach the right to freedom of religion?](#) (November 2020)
- [Leviathan Challenged: is the Lockdown ECHR Compliant?](#) (May 2020)
- Seminar on 'Scope of Duty: Chester v Afshar revisited' (June 2019)
Talk on 'Implications of the Forthcoming Discount Rate Review' Avma, (May 2019)
- ['Big Brother Watch & Others v UK'](#) Counsel Magazine, (November 2018)
- Talk on 'The Liability of Private Hospitals and Clinics' (2018)

- Talk on 'Education and Mental Capacity Training for Local Government' with Orbis Law (2017)
- Talk on "The Stages of Clinical Negligence Litigation' (2017)
- Dominic is a regular contributor to the UK Human Rights Blog and Law Pod UK Ep. 32 & Ep. 153.
- Editorial Team for the 1COR Quarterly Medical Law Review (QMLR)