



RICHARD RAMPTON QC
Call: 1965 | Silk: 1987

Registered name on the Bar Standards
Board Register: Richard Rampton QC
Vat Number: 244041206

Overview

Richard is widely recognised as one of the country's leading defamation lawyers, having appeared in many of the seminal cases which have shaped the English law relating to freedom of expression and protection of reputation. Richard has twice been awarded Chambers and Partners "Defamation Silk of the Year", in 2006 and 2014.

Richard has acted in a multitude of notable cases, ranging from the longest trial in English legal history (*McDonald's v Steel & Morris*) to cases of lasting legal and public significance (such as *David Irving v Lipstadt and Penguin*). The latter case has now been immortalised in the 2017 film "*Denial*", with Tom Wilkinson leading the cast as Richard. Other cases dealing with matters of huge public and legal importance include *Tolstoy v Aldington* (forced repatriation of PoWs) and *Galloway v Telegraph Group Ltd* (alleged receipt of monies from Saddam Hussein).

Richard appears and advises in foreign jurisdictions including Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Hawaii and The Cayman Islands, and has made Privy Council appearances in defamation cases from New South Wales and Barbados.

Richard is also a co-author of the 4th edition of the widely respected practitioner text *Duncan and Neill on Defamation*.

Recognition

Has exceptional experience of dealing with complex libel claims, having frequently appeared in precedent-setting cases. He continues to act for newspaper groups and publishers in defamation proceedings. "*A sharp mind and brilliant advocacy skills.*" "*He has extremely good judgement and is much loved by his clients.*" Chambers and Partners 2019

'*Excellent in the higher courts.*' The Legal 500 2018

"*He has a sharp mind and brilliant advocacy skills. He's unflappable and unfazed by senior judges.*" Chambers and Partners 2018

Considered a go-to senior counsel on complex libel claims who has a strong track record in precedent-setting cases. He continues to act for newspaper groups and publishers in defamation proceedings. Chambers and Partners 2017

"*He has a sharp mind and brilliant advocacy skills.*" The Legal 500 2016

"*He's brilliant and has the senior courts eating out of his hands. He has a slightly mischievous air to him, with a sharp mind and brilliant advocacy skills.*" "*He is a firm favourite with clients who like his gravitas and easy-going manner, behind which lurks fierce intelligence and tremendous experience.*" Chambers and Partners 2016

Rated very highly by Solicitors. The Legal 500 2015

Admired by solicitors for his confidence in court and his ability to effortlessly persuade a judge and jury of his case. He is a dominant presence in the defamation, privacy and data protection arenas, and has acted in some of the most prominent cases of recent times. He often appears in the Court of Appeal. "*He's hugely experienced and really engages in the case on behalf of the client.*" "*Supremely confident and reassuring.*" Chambers and Partners 2015

"*He has tremendous gravitas, and is good with clients.*" The Legal 500 2014

Has a busy practice of exceptional pedigree, and has frequently appeared in matters before the Court of Appeal. He is praised for his manner around clients, who find his immense knowledge and confidence extremely reassuring. "*Hugely experienced, he really engages in the case on behalf of the client.*" "*He's dependable, instinctive and a pleasure to work with.*" Chambers and Partners 2014



Richard Rampton QC "*remains one of the best brains*" among the QCs in the field. The Legal 500 2013/14

Richard "*combines gravitas and legal knowledge with formidable client-handling skills.*" He is "*a top QC, a great team player,*" and quite simply "*knows it all.*" Chambers and Partners 2013

Richard is the "*doyen of the libel Bar.*" The Legal 500 2012/13

Richard Rampton QC attracts a similar weight of effusive praise. "*Smooth and enticing, he is an effective advocate, who is great with a jury.*" This "*first-rate, highly tenacious*" performer recently led in defence of Times Newspapers in one of the few defamation trials on the Reynolds Privilege. Chambers and Partners 2012

Representative Cases

Mionis v Democratic Press SA [2017] EWCA Civ 1194

Flood v Times Newspapers [2017] UKSC 33

Cruddas v Calvert & Anor (CA) [2015] EWCA Civ 17

Mionis v Democratic SA [2014] EWHC 4104 (QB)

Flood v Times Newspapers [2014] EWCA Civ 1574

Cruddas v Calvert & ors [2013] EWHC 2298 (QB)

Waterson v Lloyd MP & Anor [2013] EWHC 2201 (QB), [2013] EWCA Civ 136, [2011] EWHC 3292 (QB) & EWHC 3197 (QB)

Flood v Times Newspapers Ltd [2013] EWHC 2182 (QB), [2012] UKSC 11, EWCA Civ 804 & EWHC 2375 (QB)

Citation Plc v Ellis Whittam Ltd [2013] EWCA Civ 155

McLaughlin v Lambeth Borough Council (2012)

Mengi v Hermitage [2012] EWHC 3445 (QB)

Bento v The Chief Constable of Bedfordshire Police [2012] EWHC 1525 (QB)

Lait v Evening Standard Ltd [2011] EWCA Civ 859 & EWHC 3239 (QB)

Taranissi v BBC (2007-9)

Bray v Deutsche Bank (2008)

Flood v Times Newspapers (2008)

Materazzi v Assd Newspapers and News Group Newspapers (2007-8)

Condoco Grand Cayman & Ryan v KYC News (2007)

Heather Mills McCartney v Associated Newspapers and News Group Newspapers (2007)

Virdi v Associated Newspapers (2007)

Warren v Hatton (2007)

Blunkett v Times Newspapers (2006)

Campbell v Safra (2006)



Henry v BBC (2006)

George Galloway MP v The Telegraph Group Ltd (2006)

Oryx Natural Resources v The BBC

Carlton Communications v News Group Newspapers

Michael Douglas v Hola & Ors

Rakhimov v Simon & Schuster

Rakhimov v Express Newspapers

Amanda Holden & Les Dennis v Express Newspapers

Sugar v Associated Newspapers (2001)

Sugar v News Group Newspapers (2000)

Irving v Lipstadt and Penguin Books (2000) – Holocaust denial

British Biotech PLC v DR Millar

McDonalds v Steel & Morris (1994) – The longest trial in English legal history

Taylforth v Metropolitan Police (1994)

Body Shop v Channel 4 TV (1993)

Neil v Worsthorne (1990)

Aldington v Tolstoy (1989) – The ‘forced repatriations’ of Cossacks and Yugoslavs at the end of WWII

Shah v Standard Chartered Bank [1999] QB 241 - Nature and scope of justification

Telnikoff v Matusевич [1992] 2 AC 243 – Nature and scope of fair comment

Control Risks v New English Library [1990] 1 WLR 183 – Pleading fair comment

Atkinson v Fitzwalter [1987] 1 WLR 201

Lucas Box v Associated Newspapers [1986] 1 WLR 147 – Pleading and scope of justification

Publications and Seminars

Co-author, *Duncan and Neill on Defamation*, 4th edition (2015)

Co-author with Lord Windlesham of *Report on Death on the Rock*, Faber & Faber, 1989

Qualifications

BA Hons (Oxon), Greats (Ancient History and Philosophy), University of Oxford (The Queen’s College)