



Harry Vann



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Harry Vann

Call 2003

"A very strong advocate who is excellent with clients.
He's a superb barrister."
(Chambers & Partners 2022)



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Harry joined Chambers in 2004 after successful completion of his pupillage. After initially practising in Personal Injury, he joined the Criminal Regulatory and Environmental team in 2008 and has since specialised in this area, appearing in many of the most significant cases in the field. He had a career break from 2013 to 2017 teaching at St. Peter's School, York, and remains based in York for his nationwide practice in all areas of Regulatory work.

Harry was appointed a Recorder in Crime on the North-Eastern Circuit in 2022.

Harry is Chambers & Partners Health & Safety Junior of the Year for 2021.

Criminal Regulatory & Environmental

Health & Safety

Harry acts for companies and individuals in the most serious health & safety prosecutions, including corporate and gross negligence manslaughter. He has acted for all sizes of business, from sole traders to Plcs, across a wide spectrum of industries, encompassing all aspects of construction, transport management, work at height, electrical installation, swimming pool management, farming, caravan sites, asbestos, care homes and commercial baking.

Harry successfully represented the employer in the Bosley Mill explosion prosecution, led by Dominic Kay KC, and this year, also led by Dominic, successfully secured the acquittal of manslaughter of the Managing Director of Alutrade Limited. He is briefed in three more manslaughter cases in the forthcoming year.

Fire

Harry is widely experienced in Fire Safety matters, having represented a number of individuals and corporates alike in prosecutions under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order. He was instructed in the Grenfell Inquiry. He has extensive experience in appeals against Enforcement Notices served under the FSO and achieving the best possible outcomes in high profile cases.



Food Safety

Harry has broad experience in food safety matters, with clients ranging from individual publicans to large catering companies to nationally recognised chain restaurants.

Consumer Protection

Harry's practice in consumer protection is growing, in particular, in representing businesses investigated and prosecuted for under-age sale of knives, contrary to s.141A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988.

Environmental

Harry is experienced in a very broad range of environmental issues, again appearing for both companies and individuals in connection with prosecutions as wide ranging as the discharge of waste into waterways in the north and the destruction of protected species habitat in a multi-million-pound development on the banks of the Thames. He has recently been instructed for one of the national water companies.

Selected Cases

- *HSE v. GEL* (2022, Preston Crown Court)
- *R. v. Alutrade Limited & Ors* (2022, Wolverhampton Crown Court)
- *R. v. WTL* [2021] EWCA Crim 618
- *HSE v. Fullwood Care Limited* (2021, Liverpool Crown Court)
- *HSE v. DJT Surfacing Limited* (2019)
- *Hertfordshire County Council v. McMullen & Sons Limited* (2019)
- *HSE v. Willmott Dixon* [2012] EWCA Crim 1226
- *HSE v. Tangerine Confectionery Limited & Anr* [2011] EWCA Crim 2015

Inquests & Public Inquiries

Harry frequently appears at inquests for interested persons where potential prosecutions for the whole spectrum of health & safety and food safety offences are at large, including Corporate Manslaughter. Inquests in which he has been instructed have involved all manner of industrial incidents, suspected food poisoning cases, asbestos related disease and road traffic accidents.

Recommendations

"Harry is a bit of a legal force of nature."..."He is commanding on his feet and is good at getting to grips with the case."..."He is incredibly clever, very personable and comes across well with clients."

Chambers & Partners, 2025

"Harry has a commanding presence in court. His advice is clear, concise, and tailored, and he has a fantastic way with clients, quickly putting them at ease."..."Harry is a fantastic advocate, he is very calm and incredibly persuasive. His demeanour and approach is right on point."

Legal 500, 2025

"A counsel who has a strong grasp of the issues and an ability to deliver a strong performance."

Chambers & Partners, 2024

"Harry is a top performer. With his impressive intellect, he explains issues in direct terms for the benefit of clients who always find him a reassuring presence and a strong advocate."

Legal 500, 2024

"Harry has a commanding presence both in conference and in court, and clients and judges listen when he speaks. His written advices are superb. He will go far."

Legal 500, 2024

"A very strong advocate who is excellent with clients. He's a superb barrister."

Chambers & Partners, 2022

"An incredibly intelligent and very engaging advocate."

Chambers & Partners, 2022

"His attention to detail is excellent and he's a strong advocate."; "He's excellent on his feet and his subject knowledge is astonishingly good."; "He's a calm, thoughtful and organised barrister. I have been impressed by his cross-examinations and he's very analytical."

Chambers & Partners, 2021

"Harry has an exceptional ability to identify the significant issues that are key to achieving the best outcome. He produces very effective strategies and clients warm to him easily."

Chambers & Partners, 2020

"Leading Junior"

Chambers & Partners, 2014, 2013, 2012

"Runs complex arguments with panache"

Chambers & Partners, 2013

This "charming performer" is praised for his "wonderful courtroom style".

Chambers & Partners, 2012