



Oliver Stapel



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Oliver accepts instructions across Chambers' core areas of practice, with an emphasis on insurance & reinsurance, property damage, product liability, commercial, professional liability, and personal injury.

Oliver is regularly instructed in the County Court in road traffic accident and credit hire trials, applications for strike-out and summary judgment, and directions and allocation hearings. Outside of court, Oliver is developing a busy paper practice and has been instructed to draft statement of cases and application notices.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Oliver read Geography at the University of Oxford, graduating with a First-Class degree and the CDD Gibbs Book Prize. He completed the law conversion at the University of Law, achieving a distinction. Before pupillage, Oliver worked as a Data Analyst at the Joint Biosecurity Centre during the pandemic and, most recently, at the Ministry of Justice improving rehabilitation outcomes.

## Insurance & Reinsurance

Oliver has experience in relation to a wide range of insurance disputes. He is well positioned to advise on policy construction and avoidance. Examples of recent work include:

- Representing an insurance agent in a strike out application on the basis that they were not the proper Defendant.
- Advising an insurer on whether cover could be avoided under a policy issued to the principal contractor for damage caused by an uninsured subcontractor (as a pupil).
- Drafting a Defence for an insurer in a property damage claim involving issues of policy construction, coverage, waiver and estoppel (as a pupil).
- Drafting a skeleton argument for an insurer striking out a claim for an indemnity for a contractual liability under a product liability policy (as a pupil).
- Drafting a skeleton argument for a policyholder resisting strike-out brought by the insurer on the basis that the policy did not offer cover and conditions precedent to cover had not been complied with (as a pupil).

## Property Damage

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Oliver accepts instructions in all aspects of property damage work. During pupillage he gained experience advising and drafting statements of case for both Claimants and Defendants in respect of different types of property damage, including flooding caused by Highway construction, accidental fires, and arising from the negligent supply of industrial chemicals.

## Product Liability

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During pupillage, Oliver gained experience of product liability disputes in tort, contract and under the Consumer Protection Act. This included:

- Advising a pharmaceutical company on the prospects of a claim against the manufacturer of equipment that had caused c£1.75m of medication to be contaminated (as a pupil).
- Preparing a mediation position statement on behalf of a contractor that had installed allegedly defective radiators (as a pupil).

## Personal Injury

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Oliver is developing a broad personal injury practice and accepts instructions to advise and draft pleadings for both claimants and defendants. Alongside Road Traffic Claims, Oliver has experience in all areas of personal injury including claims involving allegations of fundamental dishonesty. Previous work has included:

- Advising the owner of a racecourse on potential liability for injuries caused by the alleged negligent design of the track (as a pupil).
- Advising and drafting the Defence for a stress claim arising out of disciplinary actions taken against an employee (as a pupil).

## Professional Liability

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Oliver has an interest in both professional negligence and professional disciplinary matters. Recent experience has included:

- Advice and Defence on behalf of a voluntary professional association that had removed a member from the register (as a pupil).
  - Advising the auditor who had signed off the accounts of a charity that had been accused of misappropriating funds (as a pupil).
  - Advising a firm of solicitors accused of providing negligent advice, including issues of limitation and whether the claim was covered by the terms of an earlier settlement agreement (as a pupil).
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## Qualifications

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- BA Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford
- Bar Course, Inns of Court College of Advocacy
- Graduate Diploma in Law, University of Law