



Colin McDevitt

Year of Call: 1995

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Inquests

Colin McDevitt has appeared in a number of inquests, examples of which are:

- A death in hospital which touched upon the prescription to the deceased of a drug called amiodarone, which is used for the treatment of irregular heartbeat. The Coroner gave a narrative verdict in which he made recommendations about the future use of the drug.
- A death in hospital of an alcoholic homeless man who suffered seizures. There was an issue concerning whether the deceased had suffered a pseudo-seizure, whether his liver function tests were abnormal and whether or not he had been adequately supervised while in a private side room. The narrative verdict recorded that although the deceased had vomited, which caused a decrease in his potassium levels, the deceased refused a drip. The cause of death was recorded as Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy.
- A death at work where the deceased had driven a forklift truck while on the ground, using his hands on the foot pedals and steering by stretching upwards to the steering wheel. He was crushed by the forklift truck when he became trapped between it and pallets of stock in a warehouse. There were issues about training and engineering evidence which tended to show that the forklift truck could continue to be propelled forwards even when no pressure was applied to the accelerator.

Recommendations

'He effortlessly puts clients at ease.'

Legal 500 2018 - Employment - Leading juniors

'He has a systematic approach to complex claims.'

Legal 500 2018 - Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence - Leading juniors

'A great advocate, who is well liked by his clients.'

Legal 500 2017 - Employment - Leading juniors

'A specialist in multiple injuries claims.'

Legal 500 2017 - Personal injury and clinical negligence - Leading juniors

'Brilliant at absorbing lots of detail and cutting to the main points.'

Thomson Reuters Report 2017

'Personable experienced counsel who work with me as a team for the client.'

Legal 500 2016 - Employment – Leading juniors

'He gets results.'

Legal 500 2016 - Personal injury and clinical negligence – Leading juniors

'thorough, and has an eye for detail'

Legal 500 2015

'understands the law and the needs of the client alike'

Legal 500 2015

'an astute advocate, who will always fight your corner'

Legal 500 2014

'down to earth and personable'

Legal 500 2014

'experience in a number of complex discrimination cases'

Legal 500 2014

'excellent on his feet and on paper'

Legal 500 2013

What Judges Say:

The following comments have been made by Judges of cases in which Colin has appeared:

- Mrs Justice Slade: "Mr McDevitt's points have been put succinctly and crisply in his outline written submissions. He has been instructed at short notice but that does not detract from the cogency of his arguments to us"
- HHJ Freeland QC, Central London County Court: Colin McDevitt's client has been "excellently advised by a very competent and experienced legal representative" and "the advice from [Mr McDevitt] had been first class"
- Judge Ferris: "Mr McDevitt's advocacy has been of high quality"
- Judge Heal: Mr McDevitt is "experienced counsel using sophisticated cross-examination"

What Clients Say:

- "The opponent accepted all elements of our offer ... The client needless to say was absolutely delighted ... I thank you for your assistance in this complicated case which has resulted in a very good outcome indeed for the client", Marek Bednarczyk, Partner of Personal Injury And Clinical Negligence, Hart Brown Solicitors
- "I did want to notify you direct and to thank you for your assistance throughout. It has undoubtedly been instrumental in enabling us to achieve such a successful and satisfactory outcome for our client", David Black, Partner at Bower & Bailey Solicitors
- "Thank you again for your brilliant work", Nick Owen, Director of William Graham Law Solicitors
- "It was a pleasure to meet you last Friday and I would like to thank you very much indeed for the way in which you conducted the conference. The understanding and sympathetic approach which you displayed enabled [my daughter] to feel very much more at ease than she might have done and you were able to put across to her, in terms that she understood, the salient issues. She certainly left your Chambers feeling that she understood what had been said, had received very good, practical advice and guidance, and found the experience rather less daunting than she expected. For

myself, I have been to many conferences over the 35 years of my career as a solicitor and have never attended one better, in all aspects - which is down to you. Not all lawyers (solicitors as well as barristers!) have the ability to relate to a client in an understanding way but this you did, quite in addition to the clarity of the language used and the obvious understanding of the issues (both of which can too often be taken for granted). I have spoken to one solicitor friend recommending you. ...Very many thanks once again and very best wishes for a continuing successful career." E-mail from the father of a teenage client

- "Thank you for your Advice which contains a sound analysis." Richard Fry, Senior Partner, Griffith Smith Solicitors
- "I feel I must write to express the gratitude of both myself and my wife for Mr McDevitt's endeavours on our behalf. I am indebted to Mr McDevitt for the way he was able to put my wife at ease before she gave her evidence and would be grateful if you would pass my sincere thanks to him." Mr Moroney
- "We thank Mr McDevitt for his efforts on our client's behalf and confirm that Mr [H] was extremely pleased with the result." Pinto Potts Solicitors
- "The Client was very impressed with you." Huggins & Lewis Foskett Solicitors
- "We were delighted to receive the news yesterday that the case was judged in our favour. ...We have many things to thank [our solicitor] for [m]ost of all, we have to thank him for his inspired choice of barrister. Initially extremely apprehensive on the day of the hearing, Dr [S] and Dr [B] were given great encouragement by your style and approach. ...They were equally impressed by your closing submission which left me thinking we were home and dry. This of course did not lessen the sense of delight (and relief) around the Practice yesterday as the news broke. I would like to thank you on behalf of all the Partners for the excellent job you did for us and for the result you achieved." Doctors' Surgery on the south coast
- "I just wanted to drop you a line to say thank you for your assistance and support in this matter. I know what a pain it can be when professional clients approach you direct. You did, however, manage to keep us under control and supply all of the support and guidance that was necessary. You did guide us to a satisfactory conclusion. To have kept the Tribunal in line to obtain such a strong judgment is not just a matter of happenstance - I know that it has to be worked for and directed from an early stage." Mr C, CK Solicitors
- "Thank you for your support and hard work that you have done for me" Steve Brewer, client
- "Just a short note to express my gratitude for all your hard work on my behalf and your kindness and understanding during my ordeal. Thanks to you my faith in the human race has been restored. ... Many thanks." Mr Abercrombie, client
- "Thank you for your able assistance with this case - which was by no means straightforward! Well done!" Moorhead James Solicitors
- "I am pleased to say the court found in favour of Mr [H] in all respects and I believe Mr [H] is very pleased with the Court's decision.
- [T]hank you for your efforts." McDonald Oates Solicitors
- "Really enjoyed working with Colin and looking forward to the next battle." Eric Robinson Solicitors
- "Ms [C] is very pleased with this result and I would like to thank you for your help in preparing this claim." Davies and Partners Solicitors
- "Mr [M] has been on the phone singing your praises. ...I said I would pass on his thanks (and mine) to you." Lyons Wilson Solicitors
- "A quick and heartfelt message to say thank you ever so much for all your hard work, excellent support and cheery manner that succeeded in bringing my case to an end. ...I am delighted with the outcome. ...With the very best of wishes to you and all of the team, including Colin who was so instrumental in getting the best outcome possible." Client's email to instructing solicitor

Academic qualifications

- BSc (Hons), University of Reading, 1990
- Diploma in Law, City University, 1994

Professional qualifications & appointments

- Accredited Mediation Advocate

Professional bodies

- Employment Law Bar Association (ELBA)
- Personal Injury Bar Association (PIBA)
- Professional Negligence Bar Association (PNBA)