DEANS COURT CHAMBERS

# Simon McCann

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## Education

The University of Leeds - International History and Politics BA Hons (1st Class)

## Professional Associations

Personal Injuries Bar Association

British Association for Sport and Law

## Appointments

Football Association General Panel Member

Former Panel Disciplinary Commissioner Birmingham County Football Association

British Canoeing Disciplinary, Disputes and Appeal Panel member

Sports Resolutions Pro-bono Panel

## Areas of Specialism

- Sports Law
- Civil and Insurance Fraud
- Personal Injury and Insurance
- Data Protection and emerging technologies
- Arbitration
- Inquests
- Motor Claims
- Employer's Liability and Public Liability
- Contempt & Private Prosecutions

## Profile

Simon McCann specialises in sports law, and personal injury cases with an emphasis on complex issues of fraud and liability. In fraud work, he has many years of trial experience.

### Article:

Covid-19 & FD Trials

### Sports Law

His main specialisations are in regulatory, anti-doping and safeguarding cases.  Simon has represented a number of high-profile, international standard athletes, national-level clubs, leagues and national governing bodies.

***Crisis management***

Simon regularly deals with “crisis” and “reputational” management situations when an event or incident causes a governing body, club, or athlete to face a range of sanctions and/or adverse press coverage. The key in such cases is an immediate, robust, and proportionate response, together with an ability to plan the route ahead. Simon is happy to deal informally at first in such cases and acknowledges that access to advice quickly is vital.

Examples of such cases are:

> Re the Death of Adam Johnson – presently representing the Elite Ice Hockey League and teams in the matter of the death of Adam Johnson in 2023 whilst playing in a game between Sheffield Steelers and Nottingham Panthers:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-68107468

> Re the Death of Alexander Eastwood (2025):

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvgv72x1340o

> Toimata v Commonwealth Games Federation and the International Weightlifting Federation (2022) – represented an athlete excluded from the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games for a “whereabouts” violation.  The case was heard

by the Ad Hoc Division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport as an emergency matter.

***Regulatory and governance.***

Simon has represented athletes, players, teams and national governing bodies from most sports – football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league, golf, motor racing, basketball, ice hockey, martial arts, tennis, cycling, athletics, boxing and many others.

Recent matters have included:

- Rugby Football League v BG (2026) – instructed by a rugby player banned from his sport after serious criminal charges.
- OK & NK v British DanceSport Federation (2025) – represented Dance Sport judges in emergency action against the British DanceSport Federation.
- Chima v Lawn Tennis Association (2024) – represented the Lawn Tennis Association when it was sued by a former tennis coach for breach of contract. The claim was dismissed.
- Re WEBBA (2024) – drafted Rules and League Constitution for the West of England Basketball Association.
- FA of Wales v DW (2022) – represented the Chairman of a club in the Cymru Premier League.

Simon has also recently advised on appeals against the withdrawal of National Lottery funding from an elite athlete.

***Anti-doping***

In anti-doping, Simon has represented Premier League football players, professional Rugby League players and numerous Olympic athletes who have faced doping charges brought by the Football Association, UKAD, World Athletics and other regulatory bodies. He has previously represented Dr Richard Freeman (formerly of British Cycling and Team Sky), Dillian Whyte (heavyweight boxer) and Anthony DeLuca (Sheffield Steelers ice hockey player). Simon's experience of Doping and Integrity prosecutions is international and national. Simon was appointed as Anti-Doping Counsel to the Commonwealth Games in 2022.

***Safeguarding***

Recent safeguarding work includes investigations held by the Lawn Tennis Association, the British Horse Racing Authority and the England and Wales Cricket Board.

***Sports injuries***

In combination with his work in the Personal Injury sector, Simon has represented many players and clubs in "player-on-player" incidents, such as this:

https://www.theguardian.com/fo...

***Football***

Simon has for many years represented football clubs and players across a wide range of work - disciplinary, regulatory, safeguarding, advisory and insurance. Simon is a member of the Football Association's General Panel. He was formerly an Independent

Disciplinary Commissioner for the Birmingham County Football Association, and has a thorough understanding of the g FA qualified coach).

He is able to deal with all aspects of football club governance. He has, for example, represented a football club chair who was made the subject of a sanction for social media posts.

***Other work***

Simon is a Chair of British Canoeing's Disciplinary, Dispute and Appeals Panel, and has dealt with a number of Olympic Selection Appeals.

Simon is a member of the Sports Resolutions Pro-bono Panel, and is able to provide and representation in all areas relating to anti-doping, discipline and safeguarding.

He is a member of the British Association for Sport and Law.

## Catastrophic Personal Injury

Simon has many years' experience of catastrophic injury cases, including brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, amputations and chronic pain claims. He has a particular interest in cases in which functional neurological disorder is alleged.

Simon is noted for his expertise in cases in which surveillance evidence is deployed. He gives regular seminars on the legal and evidential complexities of surveillance and social media evidence.

Recent cases have included:

- G v TRP and 1 other (2026) – ongoing case in which the Claimant suffered brain injuries after an electrocution. The claim is valued at in excess of £3 million.
- NK v LP Limited (2026) – chronic pain case settled for £1 million.
- NL v KA and 1 other (2026) – ongoing brain injury case valued at £4.5 million.
- AC v GA (2026) – ongoing spinal injury case valued at £4 million.
- DK v PP (2025) – Spinal injury case pleaded at in excess of £9 million. Settled for £3 million.
- PF v PSJ and 1 other (2025) – settled liability and quantum in a case pleaded at £2.5 million for £600,000.
- KB v TMS (2024) – finding of fundamental dishonesty in a claim pleaded at in excess of £1 million.

## Fraud

Simon's fraud practice is insurance-based in high-value, multi-track cases.

He is a specialist in this area, with over 30 years of experience in fraud trials and the investigation of fraud, during which time he has taken many hundreds of fraud cases to trial. He has advised motor insurers, employers' insurers, and local authorities on all aspects of fraudulent claims and has assisted in the development of a number of specialist fraud units. Simon has developed a significant reputation for defending fraudulent claims in both the motor and casualty fields.

Simon's recent emphasis has been on cases in which insurers seek findings of contempt of court or in which they seek to bring private prosecutions. He has been involved in a number of high-profile cases:

https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/...

https://www.insurancetimes.co....

Simon has spoken regularly at national events and at a local level on the subject of fraudulent claims.

Simon has a particular interest in cases in which surveillance or social media evidence are deployed. He is also able to developing technologies such as analytics and telematics. Issues
over data protection in insurance and fraud work are also within his expertise.

Areas of special interest:

- Fraud rings
- Staged accidents
- Fraudulent claims in the workplace

Fraudulent claims against local authorities

Contempt proceedings

## Notable Cases

### Re the Death of Adam Johnson (2026)

**Practice Area: Sports Law**

Presently representing the Elite Ice Hockey League and teams in the matter of the death of Adam Johnson, who died whilst playing in a game between Sheffield Steelers and Nottingham Panthers in 2023.

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### Re the Death of Alexander Eastwood (2025)

**Practice Area: Sports Law**

Inquest into the death of Master Alexander Eastwood in a kickboxing bout in 2024.

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### Rugby Football League v BG (2026)

**Practice Area: Sports Law**

Instructed by a rugby player banned from his sport after serious criminal charges

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### OK & NK v British DanceSport Federation (2025)

**Practice Area: Sports Law**

Represented Dance Sport judges in emergency action against the British DanceSport Federation.

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### Chima v Lawn Tennis Association (2024)

**Practice Area: Sports Law**

Represented the Lawn Tennis Association when it was sued by a former tennis coach for breach of contract. The claim was dismissed

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### Toimata v Commonwealth Games Federation and the International Weightlifting Federation (2022)

**Practice Area: Sports Law**

Represented an athlete excluded from the 2022 Commonwealth Games for a “whereabouts” violation. The matter was heard by the Ad Hoc Division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

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### UKAD v Dr Richard Freeman; Dr Richard Freeman v GMC (on appeal)

**Practice Area: Sports Law**

Represented Dr Richard Freeman, former Team Sky and British Cycling doctor, in his anti-doping case before the National Anti-Doping Panel. Simon also appeared for Dr Freeman in his appeal against erasure from the medical register.

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### UK Sport v E (2021)

**Practice Area: Sports Law**

Appeal against withdrawal of Elite Athlete's Lottery funding

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### England and Wales Cricket Board v B (2021)

**Practice Area: Sports Law**

Appeal against safeguarding ban for a cricket coach

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### British Horse Racing Authority v G (2021)

**Practice Area: Sports Law**

Safeguarding appeal against BHRA permanent ban

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### Lawn Tennis Association v M (2021)

**Practice Area: Sports Law**

Safeguarding/bullying hearing for a long-standing professional tennis coach

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### The Football Association v X (2020)

**Practice Area: Sports Law**

Represented a Premier League player in an anti-doping, "social" drugs case

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### KB v Bury Football Club (2020)

**Practice Area: Sports Law**

Representing the (EFL) football club in a personal injury claim brought by an ex-player

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### UKAD (RFL) v AC (2020)

**Practice Area: Sports Law**

Represented a professional RFL player faced with an anti-doping charge

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### World Athletics v DN (2020)

**Practice Area: Sports Law**

Represented a Belorussian Olympic-standard Athlete faced with an anti-doping charge

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### International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) v VG (2019)

**Practice Area: Sports Law**

Represented a Panamanian Olympic-standard track athlete faced with a charge of manipulation of his race results

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### International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) v IK (2019)

**Practice Area: Sports Law**

Represented a Greek Olympic-standard athlete faced with an anti-doping charge

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### International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) v AK (2019)

**Practice Area: Sports Law**

Represented a world-record holding Kenyan long-distance runner in a blood-doping case

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### Ian Hume v Chris Morgan & Sheffield UTD (2011)

**Practice Area: Sports Law**

Acted for the Defendants in this well-publicised case. The Claimant suffered a fractured skull whilst playing for Barnsley against Sheffield United, and alleged that the use of the elbow was either deliberate or reckless

more

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### G v TRP and 1 other (2026)

**Practice Area: Catastrophic Injury**

Ongoing case in which the Claimant suffered brain injuries after an electrocution.  The claim is valued at in excess of £3 million.

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### NK v LP Limited (2026)

**Practice Area:**

Chronic pain case settled for £1 million.

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### NL v KA and 1 other (2026)

**Practice Area: Catastrophic Injury**

Ongoing brain injury case valued at £4.5 million.

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### AC v GA (2026)

**Practice Area: Catastrophic Injury**

Ongoing spinal injury case valued at £4 million.

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### DK v PP (2025)

**Practice Area:**

Spinal injury case pleaded at in excess of £9 million.  Settled for £3 million.

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### PF v PSJ and 1 other (2025)

**Practice Area: Catastrophic Injury**

Settled liability and quantum in a case pleaded at £2.5 million for £600,000.

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### KB v TMS (2024)

**Practice Area: Catastrophic Injury**

Finding of fundamental dishonesty in a claim pleaded at in excess of £1 million.

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### Zurich Insurance Plc v Barnicoat & Craze [2020] EWHC 3127 (QB)

**Practice Area: Contempt & Private Prosecutions**

Represented Zurich Insurance in a contempt of Court case which received national publicity

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### AXA Insurance v Masud [2019] EWHC Civ 479 (QB)

**Practice Area: Contempt & Private Prosecutions**

Represented AXA Insurance in contempt of Court proceedings brought against the Defendant. The Defendant has pursued a large loss personal injury claim, which had been procedurally struck out once

surveillance evidence disclosed the Defendant working and driving the family car - neither of which he had been claimed to be able to do.

AXA brought contempt proceedings. The Deputy High Court Judge sentenced Masud to 16 months' immediate imprisonment in Pentonville Prison. This is one of the largest sentences for contempt that has been seen.

An attempt to set aside the sentence and purge Masud's contempt failed before the High Court.

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## What the Directories say

*Simon is fearless and tactically astute. A very user-friendly junior.'*

*Legal 500, 2026*

*"Simon is a fixture in this space and has a good following with insurers. He is very strong in trial work."*

*Chambers and Partners 2026*

"Simon is an excellent advocate with strong cross-examination skills required for fraud and dishonesty trials."

*Chambers and Partners 2025*

"Simon has obtained some great results. He is a strong advocate, pragmatic and responsive."

*Chambers and Partners 2025*

"Simon is an outstanding barrister with experience in all aspects of insurance fraud. He is a good advocate and is excellent at cross-examination."

*Chambers and Partners 2025*

*‘Simon is a first-class advocate with a sharp eye for detail. He is a safe pair of hands and he gets to the crux of the issues in dispute very quickly.’*

*Legal 500 2025*

“He is a strong defender and very competent at dealing with higher value cases.”

*Chambers & Partners, 2024*

“Simon is a fantastic advocate.”

*Chambers & Partners 2024*

Simon's advocacy is exceptional. He is a go-to barrister in respect of any matter where thorough cross-examination of a witness is required at trial, and his advocacy technique is unique and intelligent.

*Legal 500, 2024*

Simon is an excellent strategist with a credible approach to cases, especially where there is a fraud element. He is a team player, accessible and commercially minded.

*Legal 500, 2023*

Simon is accessible and engages fully with cases.

*Chambers & Partners 2023*

Simon is an excellent barrister who engages fully with cases.

*Chambers & Partners, 2023*

A brilliant and fierce advocate.
He is willing to fight your corner very hard and he is excellent for cases involving elements of fraud.

*Chambers and Partners, 2022*

An excellent strategist who is accessible and approachable. Always brings a detailed analysis of the evidence allowing a credible strategy on CAT fraud cases from the outset.

*Legal 500, 2022*

He has an excellent manner and will assess the prospects of a case and give it to you straight with sound, fair advice. He brings utmost technical excellence as well.
He's been on the circuit for a long time and is a good insurance fraud barrister.

*Chambers and Partners, 2021*

He is excellent at cross examination in Casualty Fraud Trials. Picking out and focusing on the inconsistencies to support Fundamental Dishonesty findings. He is always willing to go the extra mile.

*Legal 500, 2021*

Builds an excellent rapport with clients.

*Legal 500, 2020*

Very well established and very much favoured by the insurance industry. His pleadings are good and very accurate. He's good on his feet in court.
Very well prepared and good fun to deal with.

*Chambers and Partners*

He has a very good manner in court, he is a very reassuring and natural presence in front of the judge.

*Chambers UK*

He's the kind of person you would want on your side in a courtroom fight - quick on his feet and not afraid to ask the difficult questions.
He is straightforward and candid in his views. That is appreciated by clients, who want to be told how it is.

*Chambers UK*

Commentators note his particular expertise in cases of industrial disease.

*Chambers UK*

He provides prompt advice, has a good approach and is very knowledgeable. He is helpful and strong in both discussions and negotiations.
He is very user-friendly and down-to-earth.

*Chambers and Partners*

He gets to the heart of issues quickly.

*Legal 500*

Recommended.

*Legal 500*

He is a very tenacious street fighter who will get stuck in and scrap it out.

*Chambers UK*

He's the kind of person you'd want on your side in a courtroom fight: he's quick on his feet and not afraid to ask the difficult questions.

He is a details man who will pick out things that pass me by.

*Chambers UK*

A natural trial advocate.

*Legal 500*

He is very pragmatic, realistic and keen to find solutions.

He provides very sound advice and is reassuring with clients.

*Chambers and Partners*

Excellent.

His performance at trial is as detailed as it is masterly.

He's very thorough and presents information very well to clients.

*Chambers and Partners*

Strong, effective Counsel, kept very busy.

*Legal 500*

A true professional who excels in the courtroom.

Very affable and pleasant.

*Chambers and Partners*

One of the best when it comes to cross-examination, he always cuts straight to the important issues in the case.

*Chambers and Partners*

'Punchy but measured' approach to personal injury litigation.

*Chambers and Partners*

He's very good and has a reassuring, natural manner before the judge.

*Chambers UK*

Knowledgeable and approachable, and deals with papers speedily.

*Legal 500*

A specialist in personal injury and insurance fraud.' (Personal injury and clinical negligence)

*Legal 500*

Offers expertise in industrial disease cases.

*Chambers UK*

Recommended.

*Legal 500*

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