



**GERARD FORLIN QC**

Cornerstone Barristers

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Gerard Forlin was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn and appointed Queen's Counsel 2010 in both Civil and Criminal (see [www.qcappointments.org](http://www.qcappointments.org)) (see [www.gerardforlin.com](http://www.gerardforlin.com))

Education:

- London School of Economics            LLB (Hons) and LLM
- Trinity Hall, Cambridge University    M.Phil.
- University College London             Diploma in Air and Space Law

Languages spoken: English, French, Italian, basic Cantonese

He was previously Senior Crown Counsel, Hong Kong.

Gerard is also called to the Bar in Australia and is a member of [Denman Chambers](#) in Sydney. He is also a member of Maxwell Chambers in Singapore where he has his own room.

He is admitted as a barrister of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, British Virgin Island Circuit.

Gerard has just undertaken a series of lectures for the Foreign and Commonwealth office on the UK Bribery Act in Australia (2013). He will be conducting more later in the year, in other countries including Singapore

He has recently been appointed to an International Mediation and Arbitration panel of 14 worldwide Members for the Royal Aeronautical Society. There are only two QC's on this global panel.

He is vice chair of the health and safety lawyers association.

Gerard's areas of expertise in which he also acts globally, includes the following:

Regulatory, specialising in health and safety and corporate and gross negligence manslaughter, disaster litigation, aviation, railways, shipping safety, diving, oil and gas, environmental crime, construction, professional discipline, public inquiries, fraud, regulatory offences, product liability, healthcare, commercial fishing (EU), consumer crime, licensing, corruption and bribery, waste offences, human rights and inquests.

The **Legal 500** continues recognition of Gerard's practice with the most recent edition (2013) ranking him as a leading Silk under 'Health and Safety', and 'Product Liability'. Having taken Silk, Gerard was ranked in the newly amalgamated grouping 'Consumer and product liability', and 'Health, safety and environment'. In Consumer law Gerard was singled out as showing *"impressive judgment and strategic skill"*. In the 2011 Legal 500 directory Gerard was described as having an *'encyclopedic knowledge of Health and Safety law'* and in relation to consumer and product liability it said, *'Technical and industrial product claims specialist Gerard Forlin QC is blessed with an encyclopedic knowledge of the law and the inner workings of the prosecution'*. In the 2009 edition he is described as a *'formidable advocate with strength in technical and industrial product claims'*. *'managing the evidence well and is very good with juries'*.

In the September 2008 he is described as a *'manslaughter specialist'*, *clients praising his 'great industry knowledge' and 'incredible work ethic', recent cases include acting for Balfour Beatty on the Hatfield crash. "Forlin's robust style of advocacy, easy client manner and market awareness all combine with the above to merit a first-tier ranking."*

The current **Chambers and Partners** 2014 guide ranks Gerard as a leading Silk in Health and Safety, describing him as *"an able, experienced practitioner, and a good advocate."* *"He is one to have on your side during any investigation into a workplace death."*

In **Chambers and Partners** 2013 it is described that he *"brings bags of charm, has an extraordinary mastery of his brief and produces a lovely turn of phrase"*.

In **Chambers and Partners** 2012 he is ranked as a leading Silk in Health and Safety. He is admired by peers for *“the flamboyance with which he presents his cases.”* He is a specialist in numerous fields and has notable expertise of the rail and aviation sectors. His health and safety practice has led him to undertake the defence of many corporate manslaughter prosecutions. Solicitors say: *“He is exceptional as he is both very good with clients and very good at keeping a team together.”*

In **Chambers and Partners** 2011 he is ranked as a leading new Silk in Health and Safety. Interviewees describe him as *“an old-fashioned jury advocate with excellent knowledge of his subject and a great feel for his cases”*. *“A seasoned defender of international blue-chip companies in fatality cases, he is a tireless performer”*.

In **Legal Experts** 2011 he is ranked as a leading new Silk in Consumer and Health and Safety and in May Gerard was awarded a **Finance Monthly Law Award** 2011. These prestigious awards span many different fields and jurisdictions throughout the legal world. Gerard was voted as a winner in the Health and Safety category. Andrew Palmer of Finance Monthly, observed that *“The 2011 Finance Monthly Law Awards recognise all those firms [and individuals] that have dedicated their resources to innovation, built on their depth of expertise and performed outstandingly over the year.”*

He has been involved in over 250 fatality cases and has appeared in the vast majority of major cases in this field in the last ten years. He also acts for the Environment Agency on policy issues.

In the last five years he has been ranked in no fewer than five areas in both the leading independent directories including:

1. Health and Safety
2. Crime
3. Public Inquiries and Inquests
4. Consumer Law
5. Environmental Law

Gerard is also:

- Special Adviser to the Bar Council on the Corporate Manslaughter Bill (2005)
- Consultant to a recent Global Aviation Concordat on Aviation Safety
- Standing Counsel to numerous Plc's, Unions and Government Departments in the UK and abroad. Acts for Crown Departments on Crown Censure (Occasional AG nomination)
- Consultant to the Army and various police forces
- Licensed to be instructed directly by members of the public

Gerard has been involved in over 250 fatality cases and has appeared in the vast majority of pivotal cases in this field in the last ten years, including:

- Watford Train Crash
- Southall Train Crash
- Paddington Train Crash
- Hillgrove School/James Porter: Leading Case on “Risk”
- Teebay Train Disaster
- Barrow Legionnaires Case
- Hatfield Train Crash
- Purley Train Crash
- Faversham Coach Crash
- Britannia Air Crash
- Lift fatality in the City of London
- Catamaran incident in Greece
- Inquest in the Falklands (death in South Georgia)

Overall, Gerard acts for the defence in approximately 10 - 20% of all fatality prosecutions in the UK. He has also acted in over 150 Jury Inquests both in the UK and overseas.

His client list includes:

- Many global companies and organisations incorporated both in the UK and elsewhere
- Acting for the Environment Agency on policy issues.
- Acting for numerous local authorities including Kensington & Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham, Enfield, Islington, Test Valley, Dorset, Harrow, Camden, Welwyn Hatfield, Forest Heath, South Northamptonshire, Suffolk Coastlines and Chelmsford
- Acting for sporting governing bodies, e.g. International Motor Sports (Formula 1)
- Acting as a disaster legal risk consultant all over the world.
- Acting as an emergency planning consultant in many countries
- Acting in fraud and DTI cases.
- Consultant to Confederation of British Industry on regulatory matters
- Consultant to the English and Scottish Police Training Schools
- Consultant to the English and Scottish Prison Services

Gerard also lectures and writes:

- Member of a General Bar Council delegation to the Middle East (September 2011)
- Member of a General Bar Council delegation to South Korea and Singapore (March 2012)
- Visiting lecturer to numerous universities including King’s College London, Murdoch, University of California, Loyola, Singapore, UMIST, Loughborough, Salford, Aberdeen
- Lectures and chairs for IBC, CLT, IIR, IATA, TEN, RoSPA, IOSH, Royal Society of Medicine, Royal Shakespeare Company, WANO, English and Scottish Law Societies and numerous universities, law firms and institutions worldwide. Has speaking engagements abroad 10 -15 times a year.
- Chairman, lecturer and facilitator to the Bar Council on the Human Rights Act 1998.
- Asked by The Honourable Society of Lincoln’s Inn to give lectures/advocacy training.

- Consultant to the National Counter Terrorism Security Office. In 2004 took part in a video with the Home Secretary called “Expecting the unexpected”.
- Appointed Special Adviser to the Bar Council on the Corporate Killing Bill.
- Over 90 articles published; joint author of Sweet & Maxwell’s practical research paper on corporate and gross negligence manslaughter.
- He has written a book chapter for the book “Cases That Changed our Lives” by Lexis Nexis, October 2010. This chapter entitled “Red Lights Spell Danger” was about the case of *R v Morgan* where Gerard had acted in the successful appeal.
- General Editor of LexisNexis: “Corporate Liability: Work related deaths and criminal prosecutions” (December 2003); 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Bloomsbury, January 2010; 3<sup>rd</sup> edition will be published in 2013
- Chapter in a Disaster and Emergency Management book for LexisNexis (November 2002 and May 2004). Further chapter on Health & Safety, public safety and criminal references in a book on Licensing for LexisNexis (2004).
- Book – Thomas Telford Publishers, January 2007, on behalf of the Institute of Civil Engineers, London. Titled: ‘A Guide on Health and Safety for Directors and Managers’.
- Script adviser for TV. Appears on TV and radio as an expert. Was a consultant for BB2 and had a brief acting part in “The Day that Britain Stopped”
- Two chapters in “Licensed premises (Law and Practice) 2005” (LexisNexis (2004) (and 2013 Bloomsbury)
- Numerous TV, radio and educational video appearances

After taking Silk in March 2010, Gerard has been involved in over eleven fatality cases. In May 2010 and in January 2012 (Inquest) he acted for Thyssen Krupp in a lift fatality case in the city of London. Inter alia he has acted for three large local authorities. Another recent case was where he acted in a catamaran inquest, the case dating back to 2003. In 2012/2013 he acted in a lengthy inquest in the Falkland Islands and South Georgia. All of these were high profile matters.

He has also been retained in other global matters involving catastrophic incidents. These include cases involving fatalities in construction (two), aviation, gas, water pollution, agriculture, funfairs, driving, mining, shipping and swimming pools.

He has also lectured and or consulted in the last two years in over fifteen countries, including the USA, Australia, Canada, The British Virgin Islands, China, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Singapore and the Middle East. He has lectured, consulted or practiced in over 40 countries.

Gerard was invited, together with the Chief Executive of Zurich, to participate in a debate with Lord Young at the inaugural seminar on the Coalition Government’s proposed changes to the regulatory regime. He has also recently been requested to respond to the proposals of Professor Löffstedt.

Gerard Forlin QC was appointed to a sub-committee (2 QC's, 2 Juniors and 2 Solicitors) of the Association of London Welsh Lawyers looking into the Welsh Government Consultation on whether there should be a separate legal jurisdiction for Wales.