

Ben Rich

Call: 2010

"Ben is excellent with clients, meticulous with the papers and, overall, a safe pair of hands."

Chambers UK 2025 (Professional Discipline)



✉ benrich@2harecourt.com ☎ 020 7353 5324

Ben Rich is ranked in Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners as a leading junior in the fields of Professional Discipline and Inquests & Inquiries.

He is described in Legal 500 as working with *"impeccable attention to detail"* and in Chambers and Partners as *"an advocate who is up for a fight, will not be intimidated by more senior counsel and delivers brilliant results"*.

He practices in Professional Discipline and Inquests. He appears in the Court of Appeal, High Court, Crown Court and a wide variety of tribunals including the MPTS, GDC, GOC and RICS.

Before being called to the Bar, Ben had a substantial career as a radio and television journalist at the BBC. He worked for six years as an editor on BBC2's Newsnight, and ended up as Deputy Editor of the Six and Ten O'clock News on BBC1.

Ben accepts [Direct Access](#) instructions.

Expertise

Inquests

Ben has a substantial inquest practice, mainly representing medical professionals. He has represented clients in jury inquests, and in Article 2 inquests.

Notable Cases:

Inquest touching on the death of BR

In this five-week Article 2 jury inquest, Ben represented an A&E consultant who had been present and had observed, at one point, while

a patient was being restrained by police officers in the department. The patient died on the floor of A&E. Ben successfully resisted the leaving of unlawful killing to the jury with regard to the doctor.

Inquest touching on the death of PB

Ben represented Essex Police, who were criticised by the family of the deceased for multiple failings, some admitted by the Force, prior to and after the release of the deceased from police custody. He took his own life shortly afterwards. The case lasted for three weeks in front of a jury. The Coroner called more than a dozen police witnesses. One failing was found to be more than minimally causative.

Inquest touching on the death of BO for Dr AO [2024]

This inquest concerned a patient with severe depression, which was resistant to a very wide range of treatments. Dr AO, his GP, prescribed a benzodiazepine which, three years earlier, a hospital specialist had suggested should not be prescribed for him again, as it might have contributed to suicidality. The GP had to explain and defend his position that it was a reasonable calculated risk given the patient's extreme distress and the fact that this drug was the only thing which provided any relief. The asserted causation was also successfully challenged.

Inquest touching on the death of FP for Prof SR [2023]

Represented a distinguished heart surgeon, where it was suggested that he had undertaken an inappropriate procedure which led to the death of an otherwise reasonably healthy patient, without obtaining her informed consent for it. The investigation concentrated on complex evidence concerning the risks of a particular heart valve device, the complication that arose, and how that interacted with changing guidelines in the area.

Professional Discipline

Ben Rich is ranked as a leading junior in the field by both Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners.

He defends doctors at the MPTS, and other healthcare professionals before their regulators. He presents cases for the General Optical Council, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the British Acupuncture Council.

Recent cases include successfully defending, over a five-week hearing, a doctor accused of sexual assaults by multiple complainants, and defending a dentist accused of missing oral cancer in a patient.

In 2020 he secured a 9-month suspension for a doctor found to have had a sexually-motivated communication with a 13-year-old. Ben successfully defended this outcome in the High Court against a GMC appeal [*GMC v Awan* [2020] EWHC 1553 (Admin)].

Other cases have included charges of dishonesty, drug-taking, and a range of clinical failings.

Ben has advised on judicial review for healthcare professionals, and has conducted a number of (non-medical) judicial reviews in the High Court.

Notable Cases:

GMC v Dr S (2025)

The doctor was accused by three complainants of sexual assaults during consultations. None of the key allegations was found proved. The doctor also faced other conduct and clinical allegations. The final outcome was a warning.

GDC v R (2025)

Ben defended a dentist accused of missing oral cancer in a patient. After cross-examination of the GDC's expert the main charge of failing to refer the cancer was found not proved, and a finding of no impairment was made.

GMC v Dr N (2024)

The doctor was accused by three eyewitnesses of extensive failures in examining and treating a patient. After cross-examination the only charges proved were minor ones (mostly record-keeping) which the doctor had admitted.

GDC v TC (2023)

This dentist faced multiple charges of inappropriate touching of dental nurses, and further allegations concerning a relationship with a junior employee in a non-dental setting. The Committee decided that the touching of the nurses was not sexual in nature, and the relationship with the employee was consensual, albeit an abuse of trust. There was a finding of "no impairment".

GMC v Dr MW (2023)

Dr MW was accused of bribing a patient not to make a complaint, following an incident in which the patient was allowed to order excessive amounts of opiates on repeat prescription. The prescription issue was dealt with at an earlier hearing where no impairment was found. In the second hearing the Tribunal concluded that the doctor did try to persuade the patient not to complain, but the allegation he offered money was not proved. He was subject to an order of conditions.

RICS v C&W (2023)

Ben represented RICS in this case against a large building management company. The company had been convicted in the Crown Court of Health and Safety offences after a passer-by was killed by a block of wood that was blown off a roof. The company had improved its safety and inspection procedures and its management systems. A fine was imposed on the company, but it retained its RICS affiliation.

GMC v Dr Awan [MPTS then GMC v Awan [2020] EWHC 1553 (Admin)]

This case involved a doctor who, against his denials, was found to have had sexually-motivated conversations with someone he believed to be 13 years old (in fact a police officer). The GMC appealed a 9-month suspension but it was upheld. The case is important for stating that a registrant should not face increased sanction simply for putting up a defence to the facts, however lacking in credibility that defence may be.