

IRLA Regional Update

Birmingham

28 November 2024 13:00 – 15:00

Your speakers

Gian Luigi Di Franco, IRLA Director

Gian Luigi was appointed to the board of IRLA as director and company secretary in 2023.

He is employed as a solicitor at RiverStone International. He has over 15 years' experience in the legacy insurance market and works on a broad range of insurance and reinsurance issues. He has particular expertise in asbestos related disease.

[Gian Luigi Di Franco | LinkedIn](#)

Paul Donnelly, Partner DWF Group

Paul specialises in complex and sensitive litigation. His caseload ranges from injury and non-injury work to policy coverage advice, product liability work and contractual disputes.

Paul acts for a number of household name insurers and insureds in a variety of sectors. His advice and assistance is sought by local authorities and major corporate clients in relation to sensitive cases, often involving a high level of public/media interest, including several child fatalities.

In the product liability and construction arenas, Paul has defended numerous multi million-pound cases, from the usual floods and fires to complex supply chain cases ranging from the chemical and pigment industries to road construction and disputes arising out major (including PFI) construction projects. His caseload of high value/complex EL and PL injury work is varied and includes the successful defence of a vicarious liability claim following an attempted murder and highly publicised multi-party litigation following major incidents (including at public events) and group action abuse claims.

[Paul Donnelly | LinkedIn](#)

Catherine Foster, Barrister Crown Office Chambers

Catherine practices in the areas of general personal injury, disease litigation, occupational stress, child sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, modern slavery, professional negligence, product liability and Inquest work.

Catherine also has a particular interest in the complications arising from the causation of psychiatric and pain related injuries in conjunction with tortious liability.

She has been at the forefront of emerging areas of litigation and continues to advise various Insurers on their response to Covid-19 related claims and Police Authorities on claims arising from the exposure of Officers to extreme pornography in the course of child sexual abuse investigations. She also continues to be involved in many reported significant individual, multi-party and group actions.

Catherine appears in Court on a regular basis and has a reputation as a strong advocate with a practical approach combined with intellectual rigour and an excellent understanding of medical issues.

She is also regularly instructed to advise individuals facing claims for sexual assault, which are necessarily confidential.

[Catherine Foster | LinkedIn](#)

Dan Heaton, Claims Manager MMI Ltd

With over 20 years' experience in the insurance industry, the last 18 of which have been in the legacy market Dan is currently the Claims Manager at Municipal Mutual Insurance specialising in the handling of complex and sensitive abuse and social care claims.

[Dan Heaton | LinkedIn](#)