

Philip Sapsford

Year of Silk: 1992

Year of Call: 1974



Practice Summary

Philip Sapsford has been in silk for over 30 years and his practice has a multidisciplinary dimension with a strong focus on criminal, civil and family law at the highest level. In particular, he is renowned for his representation of parties in cases of complexity with serious allegations of homicide, physical and sexual abuse, and in High Court care proceedings.

He has practised in criminal, civil and family law in the most complex and demanding cases; his extensive background and particular expertise is that of a forensic trial lawyer with a methodical approach to preparation, detail, and effective presentation of the key issues in any particular dispute. He combines the ability to offer sensitive, sound practical advice backed up by detailed preparation and robust Court presentation in any dispute and is highly respected by both his opponents and the judiciary. Philip's extensive experience in the High Court includes defending allegations of commercial and civil fraud. He is also well reputed for his work on complex, high-value financial remedy cases.

Pro Bono

Philip has taken on pro bono work since the 1980s, when he presented many final appeals to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in death penalty cases from the British Commonwealth countries.

Philip has appeared as amicus before many US State Supreme Courts including the presentation of oral argument. This culminated in the United States Supreme Court landmark decision [5-4] of *Roper v Simmons* 125 S. Ct. 1183 [March, 2005] whereby the death penalty was abolished throughout all of the United States for juvenile offenders.

Appointments

- Appointed to Silk, 1992
- Appointed a Recorder, 1997
- Called to the Bar in the High Court of New Zealand in 1998
- Appointed a Master of the Bench of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple 2003
- Appointed as a Deputy Judge of the High Court in 2004