

Howard Stevens KC

Call Date: 1990 | Silk Date: 2012



Howard Stevens KC was Head of Chambers until October 2025. His practice combines a broad range of first instance and appellate work.

Howard has appeared in numerous reported cases, including appeals to the Court of Appeal, the Privy Council, the Supreme Court, the Court of Justice of the European Union and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

He has a wide ranging practice but particular interests and expertise in appellate work, catastrophic personal injury litigation, cross border disputes, inquests and claims arising from disasters and terrorism, group litigation, and ADR.

Legal Services

Appeals to the Privy Council

Howard has vast experience of Privy Council work and has appeared in numerous petitions (applications) and appeals – in commercial, constitutional, public law, human rights, extradition and criminal cases, including landmark cases heard by expanded Boards.

He has also acted in related applications to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and has appeared before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (in Costa Rica) for a State party to the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights.

Notable recent cases include:

Farrington v R (Bahamas) [2025] UKPC 21 – in which the Board exercised its inherent power (recognised in the House of Lords in *Ex parte Pinochet* [2001] 1 AC 119 and in the Supreme Court in *A-G v Crosland* [2022] 1 WLR 367) to vary its previous advice, by quashing the life sentence imposed on the appellant when commuting a death sentence for murder and ordering that the appellant be resentenced. Howard appeared for the Attorney General, leading Rowan-Pennington Benton.

3 HARE COURT

[Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago v Tobago House of Assembly \(Trinidad and Tobago\) \[2025\] UKPC 8](#) – concerning the financial autonomy of the Tobago House of Assembly (THA), and whether the THA had the power to enter into a Build Own Lease Transfer (BOLT) agreement outside the framework of Part IV of the Tobago House of Assembly Act 1996. Howard appeared for the Attorney General, leading Daniel Goldblatt.

[Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago v JM \(A minor\) \(Trinidad and Tobago\) \[2022\] UKPC 54](#) – concerning alleged breaches of the appellant’s rights under sections 4 and 5 of the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago (the right to protection of the law and the right not to be subjected to cruel and unusual treatment or punishment), and the award of vindictory damages. Howard appeared for the State, leading Katherine Bailey.

[Chandler v The State \(No 2\) \(Trinidad and Tobago\) \[2022\] UKPC 19](#) – in which a nine member Board considered the constitutionality of the death penalty, affirmed its previous decision in *Matthew v The State* [2005] 1 AC 433 and declined to follow two recent decisions of the Caribbean Court of Justice. Howard appeared for the State, leading Tom Poole KC.

[Naresh Boodram v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago \[2022\] UKPC 20](#) – in which the Board held that the remedy under section 14 of the Constitution was at large when the death penalty was vacated (and therefore not confined to substituting a life sentence). Howard appeared for the Attorney General, leading Tom Poole KC.

Administrative, Constitutional & Public

Howard has appeared in numerous appeals in the Privy Council raising administrative, constitutional and public law issues, including landmark constitutional and human rights cases.

Notable recent cases include:

[Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago v JM \(A minor\) \(Trinidad and Tobago\) \[2022\] UKPC 54](#) – concerning alleged breaches of the appellant’s rights under sections 4 and 5 of the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago (the right to protection of the law and the right not to be subjected to cruel and unusual treatment or punishment) and the award of vindictory damages. Howard appeared for the State, leading Katherine Bailey.

3 HARE COURT

Chandler v The State (No 2) (Trinidad and Tobago) [2022] UKPC 19 – in which a nine member Board considered the constitutionality of the death penalty, affirmed its previous decision in *Matthew v The State* [2005] 1 AC 433 and declined to follow two recent decisions of the Caribbean Court of Justice. Howard appeared for the State, leading Tom Poole KC.

Naresh Boodram v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago [2022] UKPC 20 – in which the Board held that the remedy under section 14 of the Constitution was at large when the death penalty was vacated (and therefore not confined to substituting a life sentence). Howard appeared for the Attorney General, leading Tom Poole KC.

Personal Injury & Travel

Howard has extensive experience of catastrophic personal injury claims (acting both for claimants and defendants/insurers), group litigation and recovery actions, including claims arising variously from terrorism related incidents, disasters and accidents in the UK and abroad.

Much of Howard's work has a cross-border dimension, including jurisdiction and conflict of law issues. He is regularly instructed by tour operators and insurers in connection with high profile litigation and advises the travel industry on a wide range of issues.

Howard also has a particular interest and expertise in equine related litigation, claims arising from extreme expeditions and skiing accidents, and claims involving psychiatric injury and abuse.

He is currently instructed in a number of EL, PL, road traffic and package holiday cases involving variously severe brain injury, paralysis and amputation.

Notable recent cases include:

TUI UK Ltd v Griffiths [2023] UKSC 48 – in which the Supreme Court considered the status of 'uncontroverted' expert medical evidence. Although a personal injury claim, arising from a package holiday, the judgment is of wider application to other types of claim. Howard appeared for TUI, leading Sebastian Clegg and Dan Saxby.

X v Kuoni Travel Ltd [2021] UKSC 3 – the first case (a claim for damages for rape and assault) in which the Supreme Court had to consider the Package Travel Regulations, in which a preliminary reference was made to the Court of Justice of the European Union. Howard acted for ABTA (who were given leave to intervene) in the Supreme Court and CJEU, leading James Hawkins.

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Alli-Balogun v On The Beach Ltd & Ors [2021] EWHC 83 (QB) – concerning service of proceedings variously under CPR rules 6.3(1)(c), 6.12, 6.15, 6.16 and 6.36. Howard acted for the additional party (Meeting Point Youtravel Tourism LCC).

Advising in connection with the Grenfell Tower disaster.

Several high value catastrophic injury cases involving brain injury, in which anonymity orders were made.

Inquests

Howard has been instructed in numerous inquests, arising variously from workplace accidents, road traffic accidents, deaths abroad, disasters and terrorist attacks.

He has represented interested persons / entities in a number of complex and high profile inquests, including TUI UK Ltd in the inquests following the 2015 terrorist attack in Sousse, Tunisia, and Hertz UK Ltd in the London Bridge / Borough Market Inquests.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Howard has vast experience of ADR, in particular in connection with personal injury claims, group litigation and multi-jurisdictional disputes, which often lend themselves to ADR.

He is known for his outcome-focussed approach and negotiating skills, as well as an ability to think outside the box in order to find imaginative solutions which may not be achievable by way of litigation.

Accreditations

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Memberships

- London Common Law & Commercial Bar Association (LCLCBA)
- Personal Injury Bar Association (PIBA)
- Commonwealth Lawyers' Association

Languages

- French
- German

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