

SPECIALIST SOLICITOR FOR ST ALBANS

A new Solicitor's practice has recently opened in St. Albans to deal exclusively in the field of claims for damage and personal injury following road traffic and other accidents.

The principal solicitor in the firm, Mr Diarmuid McKeown has been appointed by the RAC to represent its members in the area, many of whom are introduced via the RAC Legal Services unit in Bristol.

Mr. McKeown, having qualified in law at the City of London Polytechnic in 1976, returned to Northern Ireland to complete his articles and within a short period of time commenced practice on his own account in Lurgan, Co. Armagh. After 10 years of general practice, with a strong accent on personal injury work, he decided to opt for a change and made his return to this country to specialise in the field of personal injury litigation. In December 1990 he joined the Harrow firm of Curry CH Hausmann Popped (formerly Curry Littlejohn), as head of their litigation department, and there renewed links between the firm and the RAC. In searching for a fresh opportunity to commence his own practice, it was a natural extension to seek the "rare and precious" appointment of the RAC.

There are less than 30 firms in the entire UK who are members of the RAC civil panel, ranging from sole practitioners to multi-partner practices. Each firm is vetted by RAC Legal Services to ensure that their members receive the same quality of service from the panel solicitors as they already receive from the organisation as a whole. "We want our members to be provided with a Rolls Royce service and expect nothing less to be given" states Nial Coleman, Accident Claims Manager, RAC Legal Services.

The practise, which is situated above Beelex Electrical at 7 Verulam Road, is available for all members of the public who have suffered personal injury as a result of accidents, either on the road, at work, through defective premises, or medical negligence. All interviews to discuss a potential claim are free and without obligation. Indeed, in many instances there is no requirement for fees to be paid in advance of action, as the costs of all claims in which liability is admitted are paid by the insurance company against whom the claim is being brought. Mr McKeown can also discuss claims by telephone (0727 834445) to alleviate the difficulty of those clients who are unable to attend his office, due to work commitments or injury. If necessary, arrangements can also be made to visit injured persons at home or in hospital if appropriate. Normal office hours are between 9.30 am and 5.30 pm but appointments can be made outside of these hours by prior arrangement. Since his arrival in this country, Mr McKeown has been disappointed at the genuine fear displayed by many members of the public of approaching a solicitor for advice and assistance. He wishes to see the climate change in this regard and believes that this will come about through freer access to the law being encouraged by growth in legal expenses insurance and the willingness of more solicitors to accept instructions in accident claims without the requirement of being placed in funds before commencing action. Mr McKeown is able to act in any road traffic accident case which involves personal injury or where the damage and expenses incurred in relation to a vehicle exceed £1000. In such instances he can recover costs from the other party's insurer and without additional cost to his client. However when the total damage and expenses fall below £1000 he can still assist by providing small claims advice leaflets free of charge. These can be obtained by telephone request or calling at his office.

'St Albans has proved an excellent choice of location from many aspects,' says Mr McKeown who is presently engaged in a round of school and house hunting so as to prepare for the smooth relocation of his family from Northern Ireland. Observer readers may remember reading in an earlier edition about Mr McKeown's weekly commuting habits between Luton and Belfast Airports.



ALAS! Accidents can happen

- At work
- Out shopping
- Indoors, at home or out visiting
- In the street or on the roads..... If you are a driver, passenger or pedestrian — or if you just trip over a paving stone
- From faulty goods

IS THERE SOMEONE ELSE AT FAULT?

- It could be
- Your employer
 - Someone else at work
 - Another driver
 - Your landlord
 - The Council
 - A shopkeeper
 - A seller or manufacturer of faulty goods

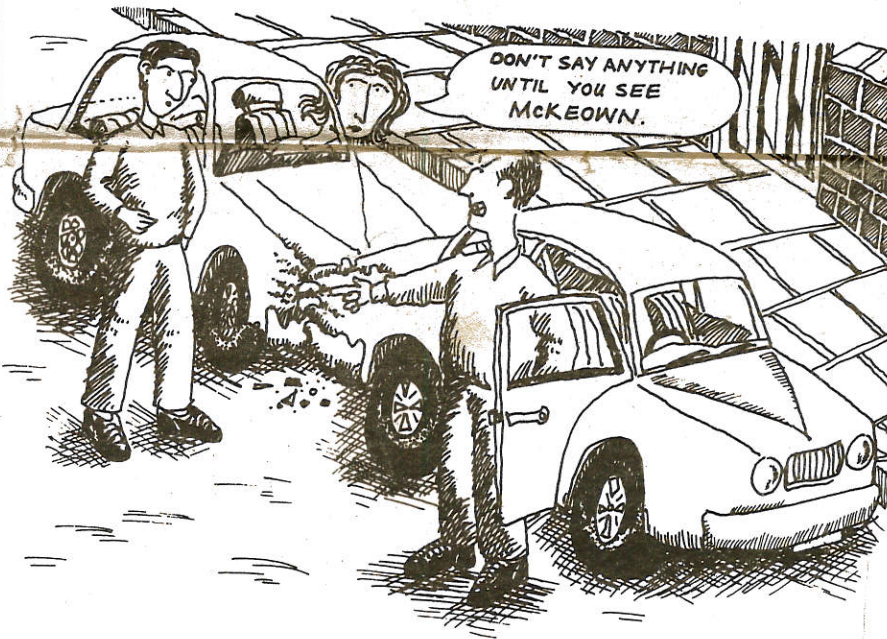
Even if you are not sure..... You may be able to

GET COMPENSATION

WHAT WILL IT COST ME?

Under the service, the first interview with a solicitor will be free.

The solicitor will tell you if you qualify for Legal Aid (this depends on your income and savings), or advise you on any likely cost to you.



ALAS!

Accidents can happen!

COMPENSATION?

Take legal advice in a Free Interview

Accident Legal Advice Service

Diarmuid McKeown solicitor

7 Verulam Rd., St. Albans, Herts, AL3 4DA. Telephone: (0727) 834445 Facsimile: (0727) 839118

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT & PERSONAL INJURY SPECIALIST

Do you require advice regarding:

- ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT
- ACCIDENT AT WORK
- INJURY FROM FAULTY GOODS



FOR FREE ADVICE ON ANY CLAIM WITHOUT OBLIGATION CALL:

0727 834445

