

Vincent Theobald-Vega

FIIRSM, FRSPH, CMIOSH, MISTR, Eur OSHM, BSc, MSc, PgDip, Cert Ed
Partner / Director of Safety 4 HED LLP



Contact Details

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Summary

A proven track record of appearing as a witness for both prosecution and defence in criminal cases, and supporting solicitors in civil actions. Holder of significant awards for Expert Witness and Consultancy work over the past five years.

A track record of 30 years in health and safety (as an HSE Inspector, University Safety Manager, and as a consultant), investigating incidents and improving safety management.

Core Competencies

Supporting materials, including information about selected cases, are provided online at safety4hed.co.uk/cases/.

Court and Legal Work

Court cases as **prosecutor** and **defence** advisor (both civil and criminal).

Prosecution

100% win for HSE Prosecution cases (including Crown Court).

Covered agriculture, construction, asbestos and management issues. All prosecutions (including defended) presented personally.

Defence

Criminal and civil matters on a wide range of health & safety issues. Excellent success rates. Includes Crown Court cross examination.

All cases settled favourably for my clients.

Consultancy

Based on experience **since 1989**.

Work includes high-profile investigations, audits, inspections, advisory work and training in University and industrial settings.

Authoring documents for clients. e.g. new Asbestos Awareness book for *Health and Safety Publications Ltd*.

Successfully implementing and managing change at Newcastle University, and other organisations.

Delivering **integrated training** programmes including training of over 500 staff for Durham University in 2014.

Investigations

Solo and team investigations, involved in the collection of evidence in complex cases.

For HSE

First case to lead to imprisonment in the UK for a H&S offence, and first joint HSE / Avon Police Manslaughter investigation.

For Clients

As part of the management of risk and for **defence in civil claims and criminal cases**. Covering: explosions, fires, laboratory incidents, accommodation, slips trips and falls, biological & chemical incidents.

Asbestos incidents, working for both clients and removal / management companies.

Investigations to HSE's standard HSG245.

Experience with **PACE interviews** and evidence collection.

Re-investigations where the previous investigator failed to collect sufficient evidence, so came to erroneous conclusions.

Other Skill Areas

Management of complex environments.

Negotiation experience as an enforcer, entrepreneur, manager and Union negotiator. Skills used to find effective, compliant, low-cost, practicable solutions for clients.

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Key Memberships and Accreditations

Vincent holds the following institute qualifications and memberships:

FIIRSM	Fellow	International Institute of Risk and Safety Management.	[2013] www.iirsm.org/
FRSPH	Fellow	Royal Society of Public Health.	[2002] www.rsph.org.uk/
CMIOSH	Chartered Member	Institution of Occupational Safety & Health.	[1993] www.iosh.com/
MISTR	Member	Institute for Safety in Technology and Research.	[2000] www.istr.org.uk/
	Member	Health and Safety Lawyers' Association.	[2013] https://hsla.org.uk/
	Member	Federation of Forensic and Expert Witnesses.	[2018] forensicandexpertwitness.co.uk
	Associate Member	Institute of Ergonomics & Human Factors.	[2013] www.ergonomics.org.uk/
EurOSHM	Registered	European Occupational Safety and Health Manager	[2014] No. 11408344523 www.euroshm.org/registerdetail.php?item=v62ju5479kw14317lc8179ml613f42rlv269ju7270kw
OSHCR	Registered	Occupational Safety and Health Consultants Register	[2011] www.oshcr.org/ www.oshcr.org/Search/Details/c285ca71-76ac-406c-a45c-6e0a8729c685/VincentTheobald-Vega
	Registered	UK Register of Expert Witnesses	[2015] No. 1736 www.jspubs.com/staticelink.cfm?ID=224A5A534B503A0E351B2C122B

Main Awards

See safety4hed.co.uk/awards/

2021	Lawyer Monthly Expert Witness Awards Federation of Forensic & Expert Witness Innovation and Excellence Awards Corporate International Magazine M&A Today – Global Awards	Health and Safety Expert Witness of the Year Award for Social Media Business Support Health & Safety Support Provider of the Year Health and Safety Expert Witness of the Year (UK) Health and Safety Expert Witness of the Year (UK)
2020	Global 100 Winners Award Global 100 Winners Award Lawyer International Legal 100 Lawyer Monthly Expert Witness Awards Global Law Experts International Specialist Business Awards M&A Today – Global Awards Corporate International Magazine	Health and Safety Expert Witness of the Year Health and Safety Professional of the Year Health and Safety Expert Witness of the Year Health and Safety Expert Witness of the Year Health and Safety Expert Witness of the Year (UK) Health and Safety Expert Witness of the Year (UK) Health and Safety Expert Witness of the Year (UK)
2019	Lawyer Monthly Magazine Lawyer International (Legal 100) Acquisition INTL Global Excellence Awards Global Venture Federation of Forensic & Expert Witnesses Global Business Insight Awards	Lawyer Monthly Expert Witness Award – Winner Health and Safety Expert of the Year (UK) Most Outstanding Health & Safety Consultancy – UK Health and Safety Expert of the Year – UK H&S Expert Witness Report Provider of the year. Best Health and Safety Consultancy Services – UK
2018	Lawyer Monthly Magazine Acquisition International Magazine CV Magazine Lawyer International (Legal 100) Corporate Live Wire	Lawyer Monthly Expert Witness Award – Winner Most Outstanding for Bespoke H&S Solutions Most Trusted H&S Consultancy – NE England Health and Safety Expert of the Year (UK) Global Winner.
2017	Lawyer Monthly Magazine Global 100	Lawyer Monthly Expert Witness Award – Winner Health and Safety Expert of the Year – UK.
2016	Forensic Insider	Health and Safety Expert Witness Award.
2015	Forensic Industry and Security Industry E-Magazines	Excellence for services to the health and safety industry.

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Process Commitments

All statements are backed with references to standards and legal requirements or cases.

- **Initial verbal outline consultation at no charge.**
- All **work is undertaken to current Expert Witness standards**, and any other specified standards will also be complied with following discussion and agreement.
- Target of **all reports drafted within three to four weeks** of receipt of instruction and papers.
- **Fees agreed in advance.**
- **Fees are due on completion of the work** (or for cases lasting more than 8 weeks, on a staged basis). A fully itemised account will be provided at the end or at set stage points as required.
- **Legal aid rates** used where this is applicable.

For an estimate of costs or a specific arrangement please contact Vincent to discuss terms.

Current Employment

- 2012 Safety 4 HEd LLP – Partner / Director** safety4hed.co.uk
Consultant, Partner and Director for *Safety 4 HEd LLP*. Undertakes work for: universities, technology companies, blue chip FTSE100 companies, charities, and specialist companies in manufacture and services (including asbestos removal).
- 2012 RRC tutor** www.rrc.co.uk
Affiliate tutor delivering IOSH and NEBOSH accredited courses.
- 2003 Northumbria University** www.northumbria.ac.uk
Lecturer delivering NEBOSH and MSc courses for the School of the Built and Natural Environment.

Past Employment

- 1999-2012 Newcastle University** www.ncl.ac.uk
Head of Safety concerned with strategic compliance and developing a safety culture in a complex fast-moving research environment. Achieved through collaborative working and a significant amount of training. Developed strategies, policies and plans to integrate occupational health, safety, risk management and environmental issues, along with sound business management (including establishing business continuity as a management issue).
- 1989-1999 HSE Inspector** www.hse.gov.uk
HSE Inspectors change disciplines as instructed by adding to basic core competencies. Role included **enforcement** of legal requirements (including **presenting cases in Court** as the prosecutor); **Investigation** of accidents, incidents and complaints; Provision of **guidance**; **Inspection** of activities; **Audits** (including managing national audits).
Specialisms included Asbestos removal work, Construction Safety, Demolition, Industrial Radiography, Fairgrounds and the Agricultural industries (including Forestry).

Degrees

- BSc (Hons)** 1985-1988 BSC Hons. in Forestry – UCNW (now Bangor University)
- MSc** 1988-1989 MSC in Biological Computation – University of York
- Pg Dip** 1989-1990 Postgraduate Diploma in Health & Safety – Aston University
- Cert Ed** 2012-2013 Certificate in Education (LLS) – LMU via Newcastle College