



Full name: Dr. Trevor Fox LLB PhD (Exon)

What subject did you study? PhD in Product Liability Law

Year of Graduation: 2005

Current Job Title: Principal

Current Employer/Organisation Name: Trevor Fox Solicitors

Find out more about Trevor on [his LinkedIn profile](#).

How did you become interested in the area that you work in?

I combined my legal training with my lifelong interest in all things mechanical. I rebuilt a vintage car in my year off before University and drove it to every one of my exams at University and Law School.

How did you get to where you are today?

After reading Law at Exeter in 1981-1984, I completed the Law Society Finals (Solicitors' exams) at the College of Law, Guildford in 1985. I was then articled at Barlow Lyde & Gilbert, qualifying as a solicitor in 1987. I accepted a position there in the Aviation Department specialising in aircraft product liability claims. I joined a competitor, Cameron Markby Hewitt, in 1990 and became a Partner in the firm in 1994. In 1999, I left to start my own firm, Fox Hartley, specialising in Product Liability, which I ran until it was acquired in 2016 by DWF LLP.

What does your current role involve, any skills and/or personal qualities needed?

I handle product liability and technical claims in the automotive, aviation, healthcare and electronics fields. It requires a willingness to learn about technology and be able to communicate with people who work in scientific and technical areas before being able to apply the law to the problem at hand.

What do you enjoy most about your role?

It is not a completely office bound job. I deal with the real world. One week I may be appearing at a Coroner's Inquest in Hull; the next I am being driven around a Formula One circuit the other side of the world.

Are there any things that are not so good?

I have no complaints or regrets.

Has anything surprised you about your role?

My whole job is a surprise in as much as I could never have imagined, when I first thought about the Law as a profession, that I would be doing what I do today.

What key tips would you give to any students who might be considering entering a similar field today?

Try to find options that might come into play in your later career. For example, I chose Shipping Law and Private International Law at Exeter. Both have come in useful. Intellectual Property would have been a good option too.

If you are lucky enough, as I was, to find an area of law that ties into another subject of interest to you, it will help sustain your career. Another interest of mine is music and I might equally have considered a career in Intellectual Property and Commercial Law. You may be doing this for a long time and it will pay to ground your Law in something that motivates you.

The legal landscape is continually moving and you will need to be prepared to adapt throughout your career. Make sure you have an escape route to move into a connected area if your chosen area disappears!