

MARTIN PORTER QC

HEAD OF CHAMBERS

Call 1986

Silk 2006

Get in touch

mporter@2tg.co.uk

twitter: [@MartinPorter6](https://twitter.com/MartinPorter6)



"brings confidence and gravitas without being overbearing"
(Chambers UK)

Practice Overview

"Extremely efficient and pragmatic", Martin is a leading personal injury specialist with particular experience of clinical negligence, industrial disease, brain damage, psychiatric injury and all sports-related litigation (particularly involving cycling). He is described by Chambers UK and the Legal 500 as a leading personal injury and clinical negligence barrister.

Martin also has considerable experience of professional negligence (especially of solicitors and surveyors), insurance work and public law/human rights

Martin broadcasts and writes frequently, including for BBC's Law in Action, The Times Law Section, New Law Journal, All England Opinion and BBC radio. He has been a member of the Western Circuit since 1987 and appears regularly on all circuits.

Martin was elected as Head of Chambers in July 2019.

Clinical Negligence

Martin regularly appears in complex clinical negligence actions, most frequently for the defendant. He is recommended by Legal 500 as a leading clinical negligence Silk with the comment that he is *"a regular fixture"* in the appellate courts, and by Chambers UK as bright and adaptable in defending negligent surgery claims.

Martin also has extensive experience of appearing before the GMC Professional Conduct Committee and advising doctors and dentists facing disciplinary proceedings. He has been appointed a Legal Assessor by the GMC.

Practice areas

Clinical Negligence
Employment
Personal Injury
Product Liability
Public Law
Sport

Memberships

LawInSport
BASL
Western Circuit
LCLCBA
Executive Committee – PIBA (past member)
PNBA
Treasurer Chairman – Thames Valley Cycling Club

Qualifications

MA (Cantab) Law
LLM (Cantab) Public Law

Education

Cambridge University



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Employment

Martin practised for many years in Employment Tribunals and is now available as leading counsel when the need arises at appellate court level.

Personal Injury

A leading personal injury silk with particular experience of high value brain damage cases and industrial disease. With his professional performance noted by the directories for over 10 years, Martin was, for example, complimented on his "**amazing capacity to absorb huge amounts of background information**". He has a particular interest in cycling and other sports-related claims.

Product Liability

Martin has extensive exposure of product liability work particularly in relation to bicycles or other mechanical equipment.

Public Law

Public law and Judicial Review with particular interest in the liability of public bodies when exercising their statutory functions with expert experience in all cycling related public law matters.

Sport

Martin has broad experience of sport-related personal injury claims. He also has specialised knowledge of sports regulation in relation to cycling and in the application statute law relating to cycling accidents, in particular, the wearing of helmets and liability.

In the last two years he has acted for national sporting bodies, sports clubs, individuals organising sports events and people injured whilst playing or participating.

Martin himself competes regularly in cycling road races.

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Significant cases from 2000-2018

Chief Constable of Hampshire v Southampton City Council (2014) Court of Appeal. (Limitation in contribution claims)

Downing v Peterborough & Stamford Hospitals NHS Trust (2014) High Court. (Quantum trial. Multimillion claim for a pain disorder)

Powell v Ridgeback Bicycles (2013) County Court. (Product Liability. Successful claim acting on behalf of cyclist who sustained injury when his mountain bike collapsed)

Lay v Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust & Shair (2013) High Court (injury at work complicated by poor surgery)

Bowden v Homerton Hospital (2012) Court of Appeal. (Liver disease induced by drug therapy)

Spradbury v Humber Mental Health Trust (2011) High Court. (Observations of voluntary hospital patient.)

Green v Sunset & Vine (2010) Court of Appeal. (Motorsport.)

Ferguson v British Gas (2009) Court of Appeal. (Protection from harassment.)

Slevin v Bennetts (2008) Court of Appeal. (Display Screen Equipment Regulations.)

Norman v Peterborough Hospital Trust (2008) (Late diagnosis of breast cancer.)

Brazier v Wolverhampton (2007) Court of Appeal. (Loss of future earnings and sick pay.)

Conn v Sunderland City Council (2007) Court of Appeal. (What constitutes harassment?)

Daw v Intel (2007) Court of Appeal. (Stress at work claim.)

Smith v Southampton Universities NHS Trust (2007) Court of Appeal. (Standard of duty of a surgeon.)

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Corbett v South Yorkshire HA (2007) High Court. (Indexation of periodical payments and impact of Working Time Regs on care regimes.)

Purver v Winchester & Eastleigh NHS Trust (2006) High Court.

Keown v Coventry Healthcare NHS Trust (2006) (Duty of care owed by hospital to child trespasser.)

Aer Lingus v Gildacraft (2006) (Limitation period in Contribution Act claims.)

Thompson v Butler (2005) Court of Appeal. (Brain damage following a whiplash injury.)

Sheldon-Green v Coventry NHS Trust [2004] High Court. (Cord prolapse case for NHSLA.)

Elmes v Hygrade Food Products Ltd [2001] EWCA CIV 121 Court of Appeal. (Service of Claim Form.)

Recommendations

Featured in Legal 500 and Chambers UK each year from 1997 to date, with particular recommendations for judgment and performance in court.

Chambers UK 2019:

"He's a go-to counsel for high-value or difficult liability cycling cases"

"Very hard-working and extremely practical"

"Calm, analytical and extremely well prepared"

Legal 500 2018:

"Very user friendly"

"He is very approachable and prompt with his advice. He has a niche specialism in cycling injury cases"

Chambers UK 2018:

"A fount of knowledge for cycling incident cases"

"Hardworking and trustworthy"

"A brilliant advocate who gets to the issues very quickly"

"Very approachable and easy to work with. Clients like him"

Legal 500 2017:

"His client care is excellent..."

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Chambers UK 2017:

"He has a really high level of advocacy"

"He is very thorough and at the same time highly pragmatic"

"He's great in negotiations and is exceptionally thorough. He gives people a great feeling of confidence, which is exactly what you want in leading counsel"

Legal 500 2016:

"An excellent advocate, who is able to deal with difficult judges"

"He is an excellent advocate and thorough in his preparation"

Chambers UK 2016:

"He is an impressive advocate"

"Martin is very good at standing his ground, and remains calm and cool"

"He is a thorough and tenacious barrister who brings great value to any case, but particularly those involving injured cyclists"

"He brings confidence and the gravitas without being overbearing"

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