

MICHAEL DE NAVARRO QC

Call 1968

Silk 1990

Get in touch

mdn@2tg.co.uk

+44 (0)20 7822 1200



"a true force to be reckoned with"
(Legal 500)

Practice Overview

Michael's principal specialism is clinical negligence and, in particular, catastrophic injury cases involving children and adults with brain and spinal injuries.

Described as a "*combative terrier of an advocate*" (Chambers UK), he is a tenacious litigator sought out by clients who know the steel beneath his charming and immensely civil approach. He is also highly valued for his advice and negotiating skills in achieving sensible litigation – risk settlements.

He is described as "*a brilliant cross-examiner.*" As one solicitor stated, "*there is no one that I would rather have onside when contesting liability*" (Chambers UK). "*His 'vast experience' means he is 'fantastic for complex cases involving large numbers of experts and witnesses.'*" (Legal 500).

Michael is frequently instructed for defendants, including the NHS. He is also instructed for claimants.

Michael also has considerable experience of personal injury, professional negligence, insurance and health and safety at work.

Clinical Negligence

Michael is rated Band 1 in Chambers UK and Band 2 in the Legal 500.

Cases have involved issues arising from neonatal hypoglycaemia and PVL, prematurity and steroids, IUGR, neonatal meningitis, resuscitation and necrotising enterocolitis, neonatal and adult hydrocephalus, posterior cerebral artery compression after head injury, raised intracranial pressure after shunt revision, basilar artery thrombosis, failure to detect exstrophic

Practice areas

Clinical Negligence
Health & Safety
Personal Injury
Professional Negligence

Memberships

COMBAR
PNBA
British German Jurists Association
Commercial Fraud Lawyers
Association (CFLA)

Qualifications

BA, BCL (OXON)

Education

Magdalen College, Oxford
University



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bladder on routine antenatal anomaly scan, tetraplegia following spinal scoliosis surgery, kernicterus, spinal tumour caused by spinal TB, pituitary tumour, cardiac arrest after anaesthetic, pre-eclampsia and cerebral haemorrhage, liability for suicide attempts after failure to admit patient with borderline personality disorder and history of self-harm, cerebral palsy as a result of birth asphyxia, and a number of cases of cerebral palsy with retained intellect raising limitation issues; also various points of principle re quantum, e.g. life expectancy, recoverability of investment management charges and when periodical payments are reasonably secure.

Health & Safety

Michael is rated as a Leading Silk in Legal 500.
Cases involving construction sites including defending designers of Severn bridge maintenance gantries, main contractors in retained façade building collapse and insurers who provided a periodic examination of window cleaning cradles.

Personal Injury

Michael is rated as a Leading Silk in Legal 500.
Cases involving traumatic brain and spinal injury, including road traffic, employer's and public liability and cases under the Animals Act.

Professional Negligence

Cases involving valuers' and solicitors' negligence, breach of fiduciary duty by solicitor, and a dispute between PCT and nursing agency as to construction of indemnity under contract for provision of professional services.

Significant cases

Wentworth v Wiltshire County Council [1993] QB 654

Nykredit v Edward Erdman [1997] AC 191 (one of the SAAMCO cases)

John Munroe (Acrylics) v LFCDA [1997] QB 1004

Jolley v London Borough of Sutton [2000] 1 WLR 1082

Day v Cook [2001] EWCA Civ 592

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Royal Victoria Infirmary NHS Trust v B [2002] EWCA Civ 348

Wyatt v Dr Curtis and ors [2003] EWCA Civ 1779

Page v Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust [2004] EWHC 1154 (QB)

YM v Gloucestershire Hospitals Foundation NHS Trust and ors [2006] EWHC 820 (QB)

Miller v Hayes and anor [2006] EWHC 820 (QB)

Cowley v Cheshire and Merseyside SHA [2007] EWHC 48 (QB)

Knight v East of England SHA [2008] EWHC 744 (QB)

Smith v Skanska Construction Services Ltd [2008] EWHC 1776 (QB)

Whiston v London SHA [2010] EWCA Civ 195

Notts CC v Bottomley and anor [2010] EWCA Civ 756

R v RNOH [2012] EWHC 492 (QB)

Recommendations

Chambers UK 2021:

"A brilliant trial lawyer - he's fantastic on his feet." "Very analytical and he leaves no stone unturned."

Legal 500 2021:

"Tough, committed to cases, and very experienced."

Chambers UK 2020:

"A very senior barrister with a lot of gravitas. He's seen and done it all and is very responsive."

"A leader in his field who inspires confidence in his clients."

Legal 500 2020:

"A major force in clinical negligence."

Chambers UK 2019:

"He gets straight to the nub of a problem and is excellent on his feet."

"Highly experienced and an extremely effective advocate."

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Chambers UK 2018:

"Extremely experienced and very resolute. A real heavyweight."
"Very sharp and very switched on."

Chambers UK 2017:

"He has gravitas and a great legal brain."

Legal 500 2017:

"A true force to be reckoned with."

Chambers UK 2016:

"He is masterful on his feet when addressing the court. His command of papers and the law is superb." "He has enormous gravitas and a sharp legal brain."

Legal 500 2016:

"...ferocious in cross-examination."

Chambers UK 2015:

"He understands the medical issues on liability and he gets to the heart of the matter quickly, no matter how complex the issue." "He is a go-to barrister for multimillion-pound claims – particularly brain damage cases."

Legal 500 2015:

"He is an excellent advocate and it is reassuring to know he is on your side."

Chambers UK 2013:

The "superb" Michael de Navarro QC is hugely in demand as he offers "brave, robust advice" and is "great in trial." Both claimant and defendant solicitors seek his counsel on cases involving maximum severity brain and spinal injuries.

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