

Michael de Navarro KC

Call 1968 | Silk 1990



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Michael de Navarro KC'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 NHSLA. He is also instructed for claimants.

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

Expertise

Clinical Negligence

Michael is ranked as a leading Silk over many years in Chambers UK and Legal 500.

He acts on cases involving 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 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.

Personal Injury

He has experience of cases involving traumatic brain and spinal injury, including road traffic, employer's and public liability and cases under the Animals Act.

Professional Negligence

He has acted on 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.

Health & Safety

Michael has acted on 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.

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

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)

Appointments

- Trustee Longborough Festival Opera (2002-)
- PIBA Chairman (1997-1999)
- President Broadway Cricket Club (1994-)
- Queen's Counsel (1990)

- Bencher Inner Temple
- Recorder (Western Circuit)

Awards

- President Broadway Cricket Club (since 1994)
- Trustee Longborough Festival Opera (since 2002)

Education

- BA (Hons), Trinity College, Cambridge University

Memberships

- PIBA
- Western Circuit

Recommendations

“Michael has a high level of experience and knowledge of the client.”
Chambers UK 2024

“Michael is a formidable advocate.” **Chambers UK 2023**

“Michael has an instinctive gut for the right answer or approach to any tricky question, being that he is has been a leader in the field of clinical negligence, personal injury and tort-related issues for so long.” **Legal 500 2023**

“Michael is very experienced, really knows the medicine inside and out and the experts have confidence in him.” **Chambers UK 2022**

“He is a force to be reckoned with. He is charming and easy to engage with, and witnesses and experts always warm to him.” *“His experience is unparalleled.”* **Legal 500 2022**

“A brilliant trial lawyer – he’s fantastic on his feet.” *“Very analytical and he leaves no stone unturned.”*
Chambers UK 2021

“Tough, committed to cases, and very experienced.” **Legal 500 2021**

"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." **Chambers UK 2020**

"A major force in clinical negligence." **Legal 500 2020**

"He gets straight to the nub of a problem and is excellent on his feet."
"Highly experienced and an extremely effective advocate." **Chambers UK 2019**

"Extremely experienced and very resolute. A real heavyweight."
"Very sharp and very switched on." **Chambers UK 2018**

"He has gravitas and a great legal brain." **Chambers UK 2017**

"A true force to be reckoned with." **Legal 500 2017**

"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."* **Chambers UK 2016**

"...ferocious in cross-examination." **Legal 500 2016**

"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 multi-million-pound claims – particularly brain damage cases."*
Chambers UK 2015

"He is an excellent advocate and it is reassuring to know he is on your side." **Legal 500 2015**

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. **Chambers UK 2013**