

William Wraight

Call 2009



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Before studying law, William Wraight was a surgeon specialising in plastic surgery.

He graduated from Oxford University in medicine in 2001; also attaining a first-class honours degree in Physiological Sciences in 1998. In his postgraduate surgical practice, William pursued interests in hand surgery and trauma reconstruction.

William's medical background gives him a particular interest and advantage in clinical negligence and personal injury and related claims.

"William's surgical background is definitely an advantage. He is calm under pressure and is a real asset to a team."

(Chambers UK 2023)

"He is meticulous and extremely detail-conscious." "He is well liked by clients but equally he holds respect with experts and opponents alike due to his sharp mind and his fierce combination of knowing both the law and the medicine." He "has an excellent grasp of technical medical matters as well as being very good on legal procedure."

(Chambers UK 2022)

"William is a delight to work with. He has an excellent eye for detail and always impresses with his preparation."

(Legal 500 2024)

William appears regularly in the High Court and County Courts. He has conducted successful appeals and appears in mediation and settlement meetings for clinical negligence, personal injury and commercial matters. He is pleased to consider work on a conditional fee basis.

Expertise

Clinical Negligence

William practised medicine for 6 years. He taught anatomy at Cambridge University and undertook research in intensive care, anatomy and plastic surgery. After general surgical training in A&E, colorectal surgery, trauma and orthopaedics and cardiothoracic surgery, he attained Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons and then specialised in plastic surgery including hand surgery, trauma and cancer reconstruction, burns and cosmetic surgery.

William is able to quickly understand and appreciate the medical evidence and issues in a case and then frame and assess their legal implications. *“He is meticulous and extremely detail-conscious.” “He is well liked by clients but equally he holds respect with experts and opponents alike due to his sharp mind and his fierce combination of knowing both the law and the medicine.”* He *“has an excellent grasp of technical medical matters as well as being very good on legal procedure.”* (Chambers UK 2022)

He is pleased to consider cases on a conditional fee agreement and to review cases at an early stage to give preliminary advice as to merits and as to the instruction of appropriate experts.

William has been instructed in cases involving:

- Delayed diagnosis including cancer, retinal detachment, septic arthritis and cauda equina syndrome
- Mismanagement of hand injuries and orthopaedic injuries
- Iatrogenic injury during general, urological and gynaecological surgery and during pleural aspiration
- Failure to warn of risk
- Failure to warn of alternative treatment
- Obstetric mismanagement during delivery, including catastrophic hypoxic foetal injuries and other traumatic injuries to mother and child
- Hypertrophic and keloid scarring
- Poor aesthetic outcomes after cosmetic surgery
- Chronic pain
- IVF and assisted reproduction
- Complications in eye surgery
- Anaesthetic negligence

Notable Clinical Negligence cases

MB (a minor) v S NHS (KBD, ongoing)

Acting for defendant NHS trust in claim arising from alleged delayed treatment of late-onset neonatal sepsis in premature baby, then suffering severe brain injury. Led by Michael de Navarro KC.

WC v H-M (KBD, ongoing)

Acting for defendant GP in claim arising from delayed referral for and diagnosis of laryngeal cancer. Liability admitted but multi-million-pound quantum claim. Allegations of fundamental dishonesty. Led by Farrah _____

Mauladad KC.

AF (a minor) v B NHS (Bath CC, ongoing)

Acting for defendant NHS trust in claim arising from extravasation injury in a neonate. Issues as to whether the Claimant will attain capacity at age 18 or otherwise will need deputyship.

E v C UHB (KBD Cardiff, ongoing)

Acting for defendant Health Board in claim arising from metal-on-metal hip replacement.

B v H and C UHB (KBD Cardiff, ongoing)

Acting for defendant Health Boards in claim arising from alleged delayed treatment of stroke and, in particular, alleged failure to transfer to tertiary centre for intravascular clot retrieval/thrombectomy.

B v NW Ambulance NHS (Manchester CC, settled January 2023, approved January 2024)

Acting for defendant ambulance trust in claim arising from delayed out-of-hospital treatment of meningitis. Some breaches of duty but detailed microbiological causation defence. Procedure complicated by Claimant losing capacity during the litigation and then sadly dying after settlement but before approval.

NW v S NHS (KBD, settled December 2023)

Acting for defendant NHS trust in fatal claim arising from delayed diagnosis of colorectal cancer in longstanding ulcerative colitis patient.

DL v C UHB (KBD, settled May 2023)

Acting for defendant Health Board in claim arising from vaginal mesh implantation. Issues also of consent and that Claimant had been enrolled on clinical trial about vaginal mesh implants.

J v O NHS (KBD, settled January 2023)

Acting for defendant NHS trust in claim arising from death after re-do cardiac valve replacement surgery. Issues of causation given uncertainty as to precise cause and mechanism of death.

M v AB HB (KBD Cardiff, settled December 2022)

Acting for defendant Health Board in claim arising from premature excision of spinal cord tumour when Claimant had otherwise only been consented for a biopsy procedure. Subsequent severe neurological injury. Causation defence given that Claimant would instead at some point anyway have gone on to have the same completion excision operation later, with likely the same risks and likely the same outcome.

B v H NHS (QBD Salisbury, discontinued September 2022)

Acting for defendant NHS Trust for alleged delay in treatment of stroke in A&E. Claimant unsuccessful in very late applications to amend claim and add ambulance service as another defendant shortly before trial. Claimant's application for permission to appeal to Court of Appeal refused on paper after written submissions. Claimant discontinued.

T v RD NHS (Exeter CC, 16-20 November 2020)

Successful defence at trial of alleged negligence and lack of consent by anaesthetist for spinal anaesthetic and femoral nerve block for knee replacement surgery.

Ian Paterson Breast Surgery Litigation (QBD, September 2017, settled; second tranche settled again 2021)

Acting for the NHS defending claims arising from the actions of Mr Ian Paterson in the private sector, led by Michael de Navarro KC.

S v B NHS (Central London CC, 25-26 November 2015)

Successful defence of a claim arising from a decision to operate on an incarcerated abdominal incisional hernia; also consent issues.

Personal Injury

William has a broad experience of both Claimant and Defendant personal injury claims. His practice includes occupier's and employer's liability claims, claims arising under the Highways Act 1980 and claims following road traffic accidents, including claims involving alleged fraud and staged accidents, low velocity impacts, credit hire and uninsured drivers.

William has acted regularly for the Motor Insurers' Bureau, led by Benjamin Browne QC, on several multi-million-pound catastrophic injury claims, between them covering almost all issues in personal injury quantum including past and future care provision, accommodation issues, loss of earnings and pension claims, periodical payments (including payments in foreign currencies and indexation to foreign indices) and provisional damages.

William also has particular interest and experience in claims involving both initial conventional personal injury and then also superadded medical negligence in treatment thereafter, advising and assisting as to contribution claims and apportionment.

Notable Personal Injury cases

B v O'K v B NHS (QBD Birmingham, March 2018, settled)

Acting for defendant driver in RTA claim, also Part 20 contribution claim against treating hospital for medical

negligence in CT-contrast extravasation injury, severely disabling the one limb that had been spared in the original accident.

T v R, MIB, & E NHS (QBD, March 2017, settled)

Acting for MIB in road traffic accident claim, also with medical negligence in subsequent hospital management of complex ankle fracture.

Inquests

William has appeared at Coroner's inquests on behalf of families of alleged victims of clinical negligence, exploring the pertinent issues through the inquest and then advising as to merits and tactics for subsequent civil claims.

William is currently instructed in the Inquests into the deaths of the patients of Mr Ian Paterson, former breast surgeon in Birmingham, acting for University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust.

Appointments

- Specialist Registrar Training Scheme in Plastic Surgery, West Midlands (to have commenced August 2007)
- SHO Plastic Surgery, Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals, London (February 2007)
- Clinical Fellow (SHO) Plastic Surgery, Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead (August 2006)
- SHO Plastic Surgery, Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead (February 2006)
- Clinical Fellow (SHO) Plastic Surgery, Royal Free Hospital (August 2005)
- Basic Surgical Training: University College, The Middlesex and The Heart Hospitals
 - Cardiothoracic Surgery (February 2005)
 - Plastic Surgery (August 2004)
 - Orthopaedics and Trauma (February 2004)
 - Colorectal Surgery (August 2003)
- Anatomy Demonstrator, Cambridge University linked with Resident Medical Officer and Surgical Assistant, Nuffield Hospital Cambridge (February 2003)
- SHO, Accident and Emergency, Barnet Hospital (August 2002)
- House Officer, General Medicine and Gastroenterology, Poole Hospital (February 2002)
- House Officer, Nuffield Department of Surgery, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford (August 2001)

Awards

- Lord Mansfield Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn
- Lord Bowen Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn

- Hardwicke Entrance Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn
- Audit Prize, Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead
- Medicine Prize, Worcester College, Oxford
- Prize for Medical Students, Royal Society of Medicine

Education

- Bar Vocational Course (Very Competent, BPP Law School)
- Graduate Diploma in Law (Commendation), BPP Law School
- MBCh Medicine, Oxford University
- BA (Hons) (1st) Physiological Sciences, Oxford University

Memberships

- PNBA
- PIBA
- Royal College of Surgeons of England

Publications

- Wraight WM, Belcher HJ and Critchley H. Deliberate self-harm by insertion of foreign bodies into the forearm. *Journal of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery* 2008;61(6):700-3
- Wraight, WM, Tay, S, Nduka, C, Pereira, JA. Bilateral breast reduction surgery in England: A postcode lottery. *Journal of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery* 2007;60:1039-44
- Wraight WM, Smith JD and Floyd D. Nomenclature for fingers and phalanges: To Name or to Number? *Journal of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery* 2007;60:368-71
- Hunter J, Wraight WM and Dheansa B. Unrealistic expectations for plastic surgery trainees entering MMC. *Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons (Supplement)* 2007;89:75
- Wraight WM and Davison JA. Nipple sharing for Nipple-Areolar Complex reconstruction: still a useful technique. *Journal of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery* 2006;59(12):1471-2
- Wraight WM and Tay S. ATLS Overseas. *BMJ Careers* 16 December 2006:230
- Wraight, WM. Suction technique [for removing foreign bodies from the ear] is useful. *BMA News* 25 November 2006
- Wraight WM and Smith JD. Surgical Care Practitioners: What do patients know and what do patients want? *Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons (Supplement)* 2006;88
- Wraight WM, Tweedie DJ and Parkin IG. Neurovascular anatomy and variation in the fourth, fifth and sixth intercostal spaces in the mid-axillary line: A cadaveric study in respect of chest drain insertion. *Clinical Anatomy* 2005;18(5):346-9
- Wraight WM and Young JD. Renal effects of inhaled nitric oxide in humans. *British Journal of Anaesthesia* 2001;86(2):267-9

Recommendations

“Will always takes the time to talk through strategies and approaches. He is very personable with the client and witnesses of fact.” “His written advices are always thorough and he is excellent on his feet.”

Chambers UK 2024

“William is a delight to work with. He has an excellent eye for detail and always impresses with his preparation.”

Legal 500 2024

“William’s surgical background is definitely an advantage. He is calm under pressure and is a real asset to a team.” “He has great drafting skills.” “William is easy to work with.”

Chambers UK 2023

“He is meticulous and extremely detail-conscious.” “He is well liked by clients but equally he holds respect with experts and opponents alike due to his sharp mind and his fierce combination of knowing both the law and the medicine.” “Has an excellent grasp of technical medical matters as well as being very good on legal procedure.”

Chambers UK 2022

“His attention to detail is astonishing and he is always well prepared. If matters take an unexpected course he adapts effortlessly.” “A very effective barrister.”

Chambers UK 2021

“Extremely approachable, very knowledgeable and tactical.”

Chambers UK 2020

“His medical training allows him to get to grips with the issues quickly.” “Very hands-on and easy to work with.”

Chambers UK 2019

“Exceptionally diligent. He has a very good grasp of medical negligence matters.”; “Well liked, personable and has a particular insight into claims given his medical background.”

Chambers UK 2018

“He has an excellent understanding of medicine and the law.”; “His experience and knowledge is well beyond his call.”

Chambers UK 2017

“He possesses excellent advocacy skills and is calmness personified when under pressure.”

Legal 500 2017

“His medical qualifications and professional approach to cases makes him a very popular choice.”; “He goes beyond my expectations. He is incredibly thorough and very thoughtful. He is impressive on his feet.”

Chambers UK 2016

“He is very good with witnesses and experts in conference.”

Legal 500 2016

"He has an exceptionally good manner with witnesses. He's really easy to work with, his turnaround times are great and he's good on his feet."

Chambers UK 2015

"His excellent medical knowledge means that he puts witnesses at ease very quickly."

Legal 500 2015

"His experience as a plastic surgeon means he is well ahead of his peers of a similar call."

Legal 500 2014