



Gerard Martin Q.C.

E-Mail martinqc@exchangechambers.co.uk

Call 1978

Silk 2000

Personal

I was born in Blackpool, attended St. Joseph's College, and from there to Cambridge to read law at Trinity Hall. I spent three happy years at that college, was given an excellent education both in law and life and have very fond memories and good friends from my time at university.

I joined Chambers in 1979 and from the start of my professional life was always interested in personal injury work, it was the sense of being able to help and make a difference to the lives of those I represented that gave me such satisfaction and interest in this type of work.

Practice

In the way my career has developed both at the junior bar and in silk, I have been instructed almost exclusively by those acting for Claimants, save for one or two occasions when insurance companies have sought my assistance.

The majority of my work over the past 10 years has been for clients with severe brain injuries, be they adults or children, the injuries resulting as the consequence of accidents or by way of clinical negligence.

Each case of severe brain injury is unique and experience teaches me it is unwise to generalise about outcomes, much depends upon the individual and the support they receive.

Practising in this speciality has meant that the experts on both sides of the litigation divide are known to me, as are the centres of excellence for rehabilitation of the brain injured.

Ensuring the inclusion of the client who may lack capacity to make decisions for himself re his claim, or in the management of his affairs, is vital and integral to the way I work. Visiting the client and his or her family at their home, hospital or in his rehabilitation unit is essential so as to gain a better understanding of the important issues in their lives. This means that I have visited most parts of England and Wales in the course of my work. I have Chambers in Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, London and Birmingham, if a meeting in an office environment is required.

My approach to this work is to encourage and promote teamwork between client, solicitor, counsel and their expert advisors. I always wish to be instructed at the outset of the case if possible, so as to influence its direction and choice of experts to assist the client.

I use the same approach outlined above to other areas of my practice which includes managing claims for spinal injury, amputees, complex regional pain syndrome and other somatoform disorders.