

Gerard Martin QC

Call 1978 | Silk 2000



Clerks' Details

- Sarah Rotherham
- 0151 242 8887

Appointments

- Accredited Mediator
- Former Recorder - Medical Law Association

Memberships

- PIBA
- PNBA

Education

- Cambridge, Law degree 2.1, 1974-1977

Beyond the Bar

Former Chair of the board of trustees at a local children's hospice.

Clinical Negligence CV

Overview

With extensive experience of clinical negligence work, Gerard worked for a number of years when he was a senior junior for defendant trusts in the North of England. Upon taking Silk, he has had vast experience leading the legal team for the claimant in many cerebral palsy cases both as to liability and quantum. He regularly achieves awards in such cases that are generally well in excess of £5 million, the largest to date being £7.5 million. He also has detailed experience of pursuing claims on behalf of those who have suffered strokes by reason of clinical negligence.

Gerard is a past chair of the Northern Circuit Medical Law Association and has presented lectures at AVMA seminars on the preparation of quantum claims in birth injuries cases. His latest clinical negligence seminars have focused on the recent topics of consent after the Supreme Court decision in Montgomery and the importance of investigating cumulative causes re causation as highlighted in the Privy Council decision of Williams v. Bermuda Hospitals.

Gerard also has a special interest in the preparation of the claim for compensation in clinical negligence cases involving brain injury both for children and adults. Indeed the largest part of his practice specialises in issues around brain injury, both as to liability and quantum. He has in-depth knowledge of the leading medical experts in the field of clinical negligence.

He understands how stressful cases can be, and that the process may often seem daunting. With this in mind, he often prefers to see clients in their own homes where they are most at ease. With almost two decades of experience in silk, Gerard has wide ranging expertise in all matters of clinical negligence.

Recommendations

“He is massively experienced, unflappable and calm.” **Chambers and Partners**

“He is hugely experienced.” “There is nothing he doesn’t know about amputation cases - the extent of his knowledge is unbelievable.” **Chambers and Partners**

“He is very knowledgeable in complex medical negligence claims and is extremely thorough. He leaves no stone unturned.” **Chambers and Partners**

“He always takes a sensible approach to cases.” **Chambers and Partners**

“His excellent understanding and knowledge helped to guide us through the case. He remained firm and supportive and is someone you want on your side.” **Chambers and Partners**

“He has excellent knowledge in the field of brain and spinal injury claims, making the complicated seem simple.” “He is a great advocate and has an exceptional client manner.” “Very impressive.” “He knows his stuff and knows his cases very well.” **Chambers and Partners**

“I find that he has the ability to crisply analyse the issues in the claim and succinctly condense expert evidence.” “A true expert in brain damage cases, both in infants and adults. Clients find him delightful, especially as he has the ability to demystify a complex area of the law.” “He has a wealth of experience in brain and spinal injury cases.” **Chambers and Partners**

“His knowledge of prosthetics and amputee injuries is phenomenal. He has taken it upon himself to know everything there is to know about prosthetics.” “He commands the respect of the court and his preparation is first-rate.” **Chambers and Partners**

“An organised and accessible QC who understands the benefits of a structured plan for cases.” “Not only reliable, but exceptional in terms of results. It’s always a positive experience for clients due to his exceptional bedside manner, and his track record speaks for itself.” **Chambers and Partners**

“His manner with clients is exceptional and his practical thinking helps everyone working on the case to achieve the relevant objectives.” “He is top-rate and particularly valued for his knowledge on amputee cases and his ability to build a strong relationship with our clients.” **Chambers and Partners**

“Much admired for his ‘robust demeanour and his ‘brilliant analysis of a case.’” **Chambers and Partners**

“His client work is second to none; he has a clear, practical attitude which the clients really appreciate.” **Chambers and Partners**

“Gerard Martin QC is particularly known for his successes in personal injury claims, but is also an excellent choice to handle high-value clinical negligence cases. He wins particular praise for his

client care skills.” **Chambers and Partners**

‘Gerard is a vastly experienced barrister who has been dealing with these cases for many years. He brings a calmness and clarity to the complexity of case preparation. He also has a very clear and efficient way of explaining complex cases so that clients, experts and judges are able to easily understand.’ **The Legal 500**

“Gerard has excellent people skills helping to manage the client through a very stressful time. He is calmness personified.” **The Legal 500**

“Gerard has excellent people skills helping to manage the client through a very stressful time. He is calmness personified. Gets to grips with the salient points quickly and is a sharp negotiator. His experience and knowledge of his rivals is second to none.” **The Legal 500**

“Has an invaluable knowledge of catastrophic injury claims.” **The Legal 500**

“Very hardworking with the ability to demystify complex areas of law.” **The Legal 500**

“He is brilliant on difficult cases involving medical negligence.” **The Legal 500**

“A favourite going back many years for his decisive judgement calls that stand the test of time.” **The Legal 500**

“I have worked with Gerard Martin QC in complex and high value clinical negligence cases including those involving spinal injuries, brain injuries and amputation. He is extremely knowledgeable in such cases and able to provide clear strategies going forward to bring cases to a successful conclusion. His guidance has made significant differences to highly complex cases. He handles experts well and treats clients with sympathy, recognising the trauma they have been through and provides guidance on rehabilitation options. His detailed knowledge of cases involving amputation is particularly impressive and he leaves no stone unturned for clients.” **Christopher Noble, Head of Clinical Negligence, Atherton Godfrey LLP**

“I am indebted to Gerard Martin QC. He agreed to accept instructions, on a CFA, in one of the most complex cases I have had the pleasure of dealing with in my short career. Very early on in the case Gerard had to trust my judgment, in the absence of supportive evidence. That trust delivered when a settlement was reached in December 2011.”

**Grant Evatt, Senior Solicitor, Blake Laphorn.
Coordinator of the APIL Military Special Interest Group**

“Gerard has always proven to be an extremely approachable Silk, who consistently goes that extra mile for my catastrophically injured clients. His advice is always thorough, clear and comprehensive. Gerard is also tenacious and when it comes to fighting in relation to important issues he knows how to get it right...”

Helen Shaw, Potter Rees Solicitors

“Gerard is a first class QC and I would highly recommend him to any team. As a solicitor specialising

in brain injury cases he offers everything my clients and I require. He knows the law, he has an excellent understanding of brain injury, he handles experts well, he is respected by his opposition and he has a good feel for what a judge is likely to do when presented with all the available evidence. Gerard is also friendly, approachable and excellent at putting my client's at ease and talking to them at their level. Most importantly he will also fight when necessary to see that justice is done."

Julie Reynolds, Julie Reynolds Solicitors

Cases

ADR

Guantanamo Bay Negotiations 2010

Acted for two of the inmates in a two week mediation against five Government departments seeking compensation for human rights violations, successfully settled.

AB 2010

Severe brain injury to a 60 year old passenger in a car, £7.5 million recovered, including annual payments for care and case management of £310,000.

CD 2010

Severe brain injury for a passenger exiting a moving taxi- successfully recovered £250,000.

EF 2011

Spinal injury tetraplegic in his early twenties, complicated by his failure to use care package, £7.3 million.

GH 2010

Young man of 16 at time of severe brain injury, passenger in car driven off Beachey Head, management of his care team made difficult by his amorous relationship with one of his carers, just under £6 million recovered.

IJ 2011

Chronic pain case for a man in his twenties, video surveillance and credibility in issue, settled for £535,000.

KL 2012

A lady in her fifties, amputee, loss of upper limb, just below shoulder, issues re use of myo electric prosthetics - £1.15 million recovered.

OP 2011

Turkish speaking man in his fifties, severe brain damage, unable to walk by reason of neurological

injuries, lost ability to speak English, severely distressed by his injuries, complicated by boney growths around his knees causing pain, £5.5 million recovered.

QR 2012

Young lady in her twenties, severe brain injuries, rendered virtually blind, 3% sight remaining in one eye, severe anxiety problems, case complicated because we were the second legal team, called in to take over the case from solicitors with whom the family had become dissatisfied, very difficult care package to manage, £5.5 million recovered.

MN 2012

Lady in her fifties, suffers severe brain injury, as a result suffers the onset of bipolar disorder, a diagnosis agreed by Defence expert to be caused by accident. The disorder not yet controlled by medication. Has reverted to her first language of Sri Lankan, profoundly deaf.

B 2018

Case settled with two days to go before trial on liability, tetraparetic client having fallen downstairs at home and broken her neck, fracture missed at hospital. Case required tough negotiation and sensitive handling of client and her expectations. We settled at 50% of full liability

H 2018

Paraplegic case just settled for £3.3 m, good negotiated settlement and client managed well.

International cases

Two recent cases of interest both concern the management of cases abroad. One involves a man in his sixties, living in Tehran, who suffered what we believe to be a severe brain injury when knocked down as a pedestrian in London and the brain injury was missed by the treating hospital which focussed on the orthopaedic injuries. The client speaks no English.

The other is for a young man with a severe brain injury who resides in Kuwait City, little is known as yet what systems for rehabilitation exist in his home country. Little English is spoken and reliance upon interpreters is essential.