

Alastair Wright

English Literature (Oxford)

Barrister

Head of Industrial Disease Litigation Group and

Head of the Pupillage Committee at St Johns Buildings Chambers

Accredited Civil and Commercial Mediator, Registered with CMC



Mediation Qualifications and Awards

1. Alastair is an accredited Civil and Commercial Mediator and registered with the Civil Mediation Council.

Professional Experience

2. Alastair graduated from Oxford University in 1988, having read English Literature.
3. Following employment teaching English as a foreign language he returned to the UK before embarking on his legal career in Manchester following pupillage with Stephen Stewart QC (now Stewart J.).
4. An experienced barrister, Alastair acts for both Claimants and Defendants in Personal Injury and Professional Negligence work but has an exclusively Claimant practice in Clinical Negligence.
5. He has represented clients before all levels of the Judiciary, including the (then) House of Lords.
6. His clinical negligence work includes cerebral palsy and other birth injury as well as surgical mismanagement and his Personal Injury work encompasses maximum severity head and spinal injury litigation. His experience and expertise are highlighted below:

Clinical Negligence

7. Vastly experienced in this field, Clinical Negligence forms a substantial proportion of Alastair's practice.
8. He appeared in the Court of Appeal in *Evans v Birmingham & Black County NHS Trust*.
9. He has regularly been instructed as Junior Counsel in high value clinical negligence claims in the High Court.

10. His professional negligence practice includes solicitors' negligence in PI and clinical negligence cases.
11. He has advised and acted in a wide variety of clinical negligence cases including surgical mismanagement; delayed diagnosis in cancer and other conditions; birth and neonatal injury; complications following cosmetic surgery and cases involving questions of informed consent.
12. Alastair has appeared before the GMC (acting for both doctors and the GMC), the CICA (including securing a number of maximum awards following severe head injury) and at many Inquests.

Personal Injury - Employers' Liability

13. Alastair has extensive experience in Employers' Liability work in both accident and disease litigation.
14. He appeared in the Court of Appeal in one of the earliest cases on the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 (*Pratt v Internet Refractories Ltd*), a case which still appears in Redgrave's Health and Safety.
15. He has undertaken numerous "disease" cases involving Hand Arm Vibration, Deafness, Dermatitis, Stress, Work Related Upper Limb Disorders etc.
16. He was Junior Counsel in the House of Lords cases of *Eastwood* and *Williams v Magnox Electric* concerning the "Johnson v Unisys exclusion" and has acted for both Claimants and Defendants in High Court Asbestos litigation.

Personal Injury - Public/Product Liability

17. Alastair has an established reputation gained over many years of Public and Product Liability litigation.
18. He has recently been asked to advise in relation to group litigation involving UK prescribed medicines.

Current position

19. Alastair continues his practice as an experienced Barrister.
20. He is the Head of Industrial Disease Litigation Group and the Pupillage Committee within St Johns Buildings Chambers. The latter means he is used to advising and working alongside the younger members of the Bar.
21. Alastair also practices mediation alongside his Chambers work.

Mediation Experience

22. Alastair is a Civil and Commercial mediator.

23. He has wide experience of mediation work, particularly in the fields of clinical negligence and personal injury.

24. He has also been involved as an advocate in numerous mediations over many years, including several clinical negligence and a number of personal injury mediations, one of which was conducted in Jersey.

Alastair's Rating

Alastair is recognised as being personable, down to earth, approachable and calm and assured in his manner. He has attracted the following assessments:

"I find him very personable: he gets on easily with clients and explains things in a matter-of-fact way." Chambers UK Bar 2020.

"Clients take to him immediately – he is very down to earth. He is very astute and can get information from clients where others can't." "Very articulate and succinct." Chambers & Partners, 2019.

"A good brain; he is shrewd, considers things carefully and is sensible" – Chambers & Partners 2017.

"Enjoys a solid clinical negligence caseload as part of his broader personal injury and industrial disease practice. His expertise covers issues including obstetric negligence."

"Noted for his expertise in industrial disease claims." Legal 500 2019

"Very approachable, good on his feet, calm and assured in his manner." Chambers & Partners 2018

"Very experienced in claimant clinical negligence cases." Legal 500 2017

"Devotes his time between high-end clinical negligence and personal injury matters and comes recommended for his superior client management skills. He acts exclusively for claimants across a caseload that includes cerebral palsy, surgical negligence and spinal injury matters."

"His strengths lie in litigation arising from brain/spinal injuries, as well as conditions arising from medical negligence." – Legal 500 2015

"He is experienced in cases involving brain and spinal injuries" – Legal 500 2014

"Acts in a broad range of clinical negligence cases... he is down to earth, approachable and good with clients. He gives sensible and considered advice."

"He is wonderful at interpreting cases and absorbing material." – Chambers & Partners 2014.