



Richard Wheeler

Year of Call: 2004

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Clinical Negligence

Richard has extensive experience in fatal accident and catastrophic clinical negligence claims, particularly involving parallel inquests and civil proceedings:

- Missed or delayed cancer diagnoses
- Neurological and hypoxic brain injury
- Obstetric negligence
- Complex causation disputes involving multiple experts

Recent work includes:

- M v NHS Trust: Fatal accident clinical negligence claim. Missed cancer diagnosis. Dependency claim for father and two young children. Settled for **£600,000**.
- G v NHS Trust: inquest and civil claim for multiple dependents following catastrophic hypoxic brain injury following surgery. Liability denied. Settled for **£350,000**.
- J v NHS Trust (ongoing): Acting for widow and children in fatal accident claim following negligent cardiac diagnosis by paramedics. Liability conceded following challenge to letter of response. **£250,000 claim**.
- B v NHS Trust: Acting for claimant following negligent death of her unborn baby due to obstetric nursing negligence and mother's subsequent psychiatric injury and loss of career. Settled c. **£250,000**.
- B v NHS Trust (ongoing): Acting for claimant diagnosed with terminal lung cancer, alleged missed diagnosis on several chest images. Liability disputed. **£200,000 claim**.
- L v NHS Trust: appearing at inquest and subsequent admission of negligence and breach of Human Rights Act 1998 following patient's escape from secure hospital and subsequent suicide. Settled.

Recommendations

Richard is known for

- Strategic judgment in high-risk and high-value litigation
- Ability to cut through complex quantum and expert evidence
- Calm and authoritative courtroom advocacy
- Clear, practical and commercially realistic advice

Legal 500 2026 – Leading Junior

“Richard is an extremely knowledgeable personal injury barrister who cuts through complex cases to identify the crux of the issue. A tactically astute and shrewd advocate who fights hard for his clients.”

“Capable of dealing with the highest value and most complex personal injury claims in relation to both liability and quantum.”

“Always impressive in advocacy, presenting complex issues in a clear and relatable manner. Excellent in conference and very well-liked by clients.”

Legal 500 2025 – Leading Junior

“An excellent barrister: fearsome in advocacy, tactically astute, and always alert to all potential issues in a claim.”

“Very analytical and knows the inquest process inside out; well prepared and puts families at ease throughout.”

“Detail-orientated and able to distil vast quantities of information into clear, concise advice; highly persuasive on complex legal arguments.”

Legal 500 2024 – Leading Junior

“Excellent at inquest work: tenacious, intuitive, and adept at reading the coroner and adapting his approach.”

“One of the best all-round barristers, with exceptional advocacy and paperwork, and excellent client care.”

“Able to approach difficult issues flexibly and pragmatically to achieve the best outcomes, while building strong rapport with clients.”

Legal 500 2023 – Leading Junior

“Excellent and extremely detailed when assessing quantum, with a particular speciality in complex fatal cases.”

“A brilliant barrister: fearsome, well prepared, and relentless in pursuit of his client’s case.”

“Quick to grasp the essential elements of a case, with advice that is always careful and rigorous.”

Legal 500 2022 – Leading Junior

“A determined advocate who leaves no stone unturned, particularly on complex quantum issues.”

“Tenacious and hardworking, with clear, tactical and analytically strong advice.”

“Persuasive, client-focused advocacy delivered with sensitivity and understanding.”

Academic qualifications

- BA Hons, Warwick (First Class, 2000)
- Inner Temple Horace Avory Scholar

Professional qualifications & appointments

- Recorder, South Eastern Circuit, 2019
- Treasury Counsel (London A Panel)
- New practitioner advocacy trainer, Inner Temple
- Mediation Advocate

Professional bodies

- Personal Injury Bar Association