

Barry McTaggart

Year of Call: 2025
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Overview

Barry McTaggart specialises in personal injury, clinical negligence and inquests.

Barry has a busy court practice and is regularly instructed in matters arising from RTA and casualty (EL/PL) claims. He is experienced in acting for both claimants and defendants, and regularly represents insurers in defending fraudulent claims.

He also has an extensive paperwork practice, frequently advising on liability, quantum and overall strategy, as well as drafting pleadings, schedules of loss and questions to experts.

He also appears in inquests, acting for bereaved families and other interested persons.

Since commencing practice, Barry has gained a reputation for his pragmatic advice and confident advocacy.

Outside law, his interests include running, learning about wine and ski-mountaineering. Before coming to the Bar, Barry led a team of first responders and avalanche technicians in the Canadian Rockies at one of North America's largest ski resorts.

Academic qualifications

- PGDip Bar Practice, Distinction, Inns of Court College of Advocacy (2025)
- GDL, Distinction, University of Law (2024)
- MSc Finance, Trinity College Dublin (2013)
- BA Politics, Philosophy and Economics(PPE), Queen's University Belfast (2012)

Scholarships

- Sunley Prize, The Honourable Society of Knights of the Round Table (2025)
- Peta Fordham Scholarship, Inner Temple (2024)
- Exhibition Bar Course Scholarship, Inner Temple (2024)
- Duke of Edinburgh Entrance Award, Inner Temple (2024)
- Exhibition GDL Scholarship, Inner Temple (2023)
- Winner, Inner Temple Inter-Varsity Moot (2023)
- Winner, The University of Law Public Law Moot (2023)
- 3rd Prize, Tort Law Essay Award by 12KBW and Thompson Reuters (2023)

Professional bodies

- Personal Injury Bar Association (PIBA)
- Attorney General's Junior Junior Panel
- The Honourable Society of The Inner Temple

Expertise

Personal Injury

Barry is experienced in a wide range of hearings, including trials, CMCs and applications for specific disclosure, strike-out, relief from sanctions and unless orders. His practice includes credit hire, occupiers' liability, employers' liability, and claims under the Animals Act 1971.

His recent experience includes:

- Securing the dismissal of a £45,000 claim for vehicle damage and credit hire at a fast-track trial
- Assisting with the Schedule of Loss in a severe brain injury claim, involving complex calculations of past and future loss of earnings, which settled for £2.6 million
- Acting both for and against claimants in claims where fundamental dishonesty was alleged, including cross-examination and submissions under s 57 of the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015
- Advising on prospects in a secondary victim claim for psychiatric harm, applying the principles in *Paul v Royal Wolverhampton NHS Foundation Trust* [2024] UKSC 1
- Obtaining a third-party costs order in credit hire litigation, following *Tescher v Direct Accident Management Ltd* [2025] EWCA Civ 733
- Advising a nursery on strategy in a claim arising from a child's playground injury during a game with a member of staff
- Securing costs orders under CPR 27.14(2)(g) on the basis of a party's unreasonable behaviour
- Advising on liability in a noise-induced hearing loss claim arising from a visit to a nightclub
- Drafting Part 35 questions to medical experts in multi-track litigation
- Appearing in costs-only hearings, including a Fixed Costs Determination under CPR Part 45

Clinical Negligence

Barry has developed a growing clinical negligence practice. Recent experience includes assisting with the drafting of Particulars of Claim in a case concerning allegations of negligent cataract surgery and a failure to obtain informed consent.

Inquests

Barry accepts instructions from all interested persons, including bereaved families, local authorities, and ambulance and NHS services.

His recent experience includes representing a bereaved family at a multi-day inquest involving multiple interested persons and a range of medical issues arising from a death in hospital.