

# Bill Braithwaite KC

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## Clerks

 Neil Wright  
 0151 242 8814

## Appointments

Accredited Mediator

## Memberships

- European Brain Injury Society Headway
- Spinal Injuries Association
- International Medical Society of Paraplegia

## Education

- Gordonstoun School
- Liverpool University

## Clinical Negligence

Bill has been a KC for 29 years, and during that time he has only represented claimants who have suffered catastrophic brain or spine injury. Because of his specialism in brain and spine, the mechanism is varied, but a significant proportion of his practice, starting nearly 30 years ago, has always been in relation to clinical negligence; usually, but not always, leading to cerebral palsy.

He has represented well over 1,000 catastrophic brain or spine injury claimants, and has won hundreds of millions of pounds in client compensation. Bill regularly finalises over £50 million of claims a year. He travels the country seeing injured people and their families, at their convenience, and believes passionately in the rights of those who have suffered catastrophic injury, and their families.

Bill has been awarded Personal Injury Barrister of the Year twice, UKABIF Lawyer Innovator once, and The Times Lawyer of the Week once.

He is an accredited mediator and supports mediation and ADR when appropriate.

## Clinical Negligence Cases

EXAMPLES OF RECENT CASES:

*P* – negligent management of birth – settled for £20m.

*DH* – failure to operate on a subdural haemorrhage in time, leading to extremely severe brain injury – ongoing.

*EL* – failure to diagnose micrognathia leading to extremely severe brain injury and eventual death – ongoing.

*C* – failure to diagnose viral induced encephalitis, leading to severe brain injury – ongoing.

*EL* – micrognathia not recognised at birth – glossoptosis – obstruction of airway – profound hypoxic insult – ongoing.

*CH* – pathological CTG trace for at least 45 minutes – not noticed or heeded – ongoing.

*VH* – reduction of fetal movements – high risk – suspicious or pathological trace misinterpreted as normal – ongoing.

*HT* – prolapsed cord not recognised – ongoing.

*BP* – reduction of fetal movements – negligent telephone advice, followed by negligent interpretation of the CTG trace – liability agreed at 80% – quantum ongoing.

*AC* – failure to note presence of meconium appropriately, and to monitor CTG trace – liability admitted – quantum ongoing.

*MLG* – failure to diagnose staph aureus infection leading to septic shock – liability eventually admitted – quantum ongoing.

*JA* – failure to recognise a suspicious trace, and to continue to monitor – shoulder dystocia – ongoing.

*MB* – failure to identify fetal growth restriction – discontinued.

*JB* – overdose of morphine whilst on patient controlled anaesthetic device – settled for about £4 million (lump sum and periodical payments).

*NC* – use of unlicensed Misoprostol for stillbirth delivery – liability admitted 3 weeks before trial (following offers of 25% and 35%!!) – settled for about £4.5 million (lump sum and periodical payments).

## Recommendations

### Chambers & Partners

Band 1 – Personal Injury

Band 2 – Clinical Negligence

“Bill is quite simply brilliant. He is commercially aware with fantastic vision but also extremely approachable. He commands a room and instils confidence.”

“Bill is a very experienced and knowledgeable barrister.”

“Bill is excellent with clients. Clients are instantly put at ease by his presence on a case.”

“Bill Braithwaite KC is the leading claimant silk for catastrophic brain and spinal injury cases on the Northern Circuit. He has several decades’ worth of experience in that area and has carved out an impressive niche.”

“He is incredibly experienced.”

“An outstanding barrister – he has a wealth of knowledge in clinical negligence and other personal injury cases and a razor-sharp mind. He is also an excellent advocate with good negotiating skills.”

“Bold and meticulous in his approach to cases.”

“He is empathetic, has a sharp brain and is an amazing advocate.”

“He’s an outstanding barrister who offers a unique combination of expertise, a really sharp mind and a passion for justice.”

“Bill Braithwaite QC is an outstanding counsel – I don’t think I’ve worked with someone who has better intelligence than him. Second to none.”

“Very good client skills.”

“He has formidable knowledge of catastrophic injury claims, particularly brain injuries, and has a very good way with clients. He explains very complex subjects to them and is always willing to go above and beyond.”

“He has a huge amount of experience and very good client care skills, understanding very quickly what is involved.”

“He’s clearly a fighter – he pushes the boundaries for his clients.” “He is an extremely approachable silk and human being, and he’s very intelligent and very bright.”

“Bill is an immensely experienced barrister who has the ability to put clients at ease whilst simultaneously being a fierce advocate for them.” “A QC of formidable experience and expertise.”

“He very much looks outside the box and takes a wider view of the case, always doing what’s best for the client.”

“He predominantly specialises in brain injury, so from his knowledge and experience we’re happy to instruct him with very vulnerable clients.” “In conference, if the client has any questions, he is just a constant reassurance to them.”

“He is probably the most outstanding personal injury claimant silk I have worked with. He is a bright and excellent advocate; a great fighter for the victims of traumatic injury.”

“He is a formidable lawyer. He can always provide a solution and a way forward.”

“He lives up to his reputation as one of the leading catastrophic injury lawyers in the country.”

“Widely regarded as a leader in the field of catastrophic injury nationally. His practice is devoted solely to catastrophic brain and spinal injury claimant work, and he is recognised for his excellent communication skills. He combines forensic analysis with a very gentle and caring way with the clients – very approachable from that perspective.”

“He will fight and succeed on cases where other barristers will shy away.”

## The Legal 500

Tier 1 – Clinical Negligence

Tier 1 – Personal Injury

“Bill’s powers of reasoning in cases where there are complex issues relating to liability and causation is absolutely formidable. He champions justice for the victims tirelessly. He is the best of the best!”

“Bill has an excellent grasp of the practicalities of living with disabilities. He is very assured in settlement negotiations and has an excellent rapport with clients.”

“Bill is a fearless litigator who leaves no detail unconsidered. At the heart of it all is his obvious desire to achieve the best outcomes for people who have suffered catastrophic injuries.”

“Bill is definitely a leader in his field. His knowledge is second to none and clients always have confidence in his abilities to secure a successful outcome. Excellent advice and ability to resolve problems in cases. Genuinely cares and fights cases for claimants.”

“Bill is highly intelligent, hugely experienced and incredibly skilled as a negotiator. He has a razor sharp mind and those who have been fortunate enough to see him in court will know him as a formidable advocate. He is a must have Silk for any solicitor who deals with complex high value clinical negligence work.”

“A leading brain and spine injury barrister.”

“He has immense knowledge of brain and spinal cord injury matters.”

“Serene and charming, and his presence adds considerable weight to a case.”

“An honest, genuine and creative practitioner, who always secures the best outcome.”

“His cross-examination skills are second to none.”

“Particular expertise where claimants have mental capacity issues.”

## Publications

- Consultant editor of Kemp & Kemp from 1995 to 2004
- Joint editor of “Medical Aspects of Personal Injury Litigation”
- Author of “Brain and Spine Injury – The Fight for Justice”

## Beyond the Bar

Bill has always been mad about cars, motorbikes and lorries, he is fascinated with their design and performance. He has a Class 1 LGV (heavy goods) licence, and has passed the Institute of Advanced Motorists test on both cars and articulated lorries. He has a competition driving licence, and races in the Historic Sports Cars series at weekends, driving old Lotuses. He has been keen on wine for 40 years. He is an enthusiastic photographer.